January 1995

DeafLife

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PRINCESS OF THE ICE PALACE

Burma Young Holder looks back on a colorful life, including a brief but dazzling career as the nation's youngest exhibition skater just before World War I

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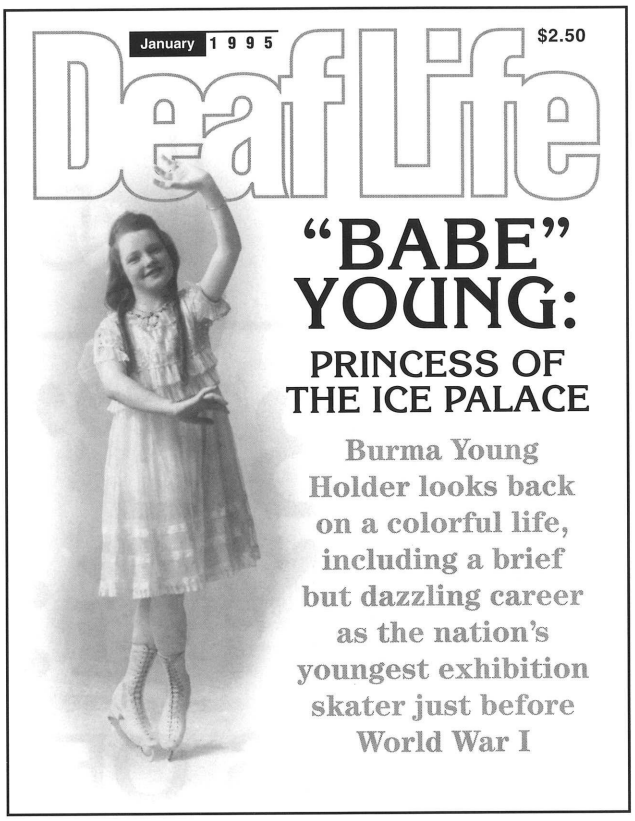
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COVER

DESIGN BY MATTHEW S. MOORE
PHOTO COURTESY OF BURMA HOLDER

SHE WAS KNOWN AS "BABE" Young, at age 11 the youngest exhibition skater in the States. A top attraction at San Francisco's Winter Garden and Portland, Oregon's Ice Palace, she performed "feats on ice" during a dazzling and brief career—but World War I put an end to the exhibitions and the ice rinks. So Burma Young took another path—school, work, two good marriages, and life in Hollywood's bustling Deaf community.

Last year, Alex Ekman interviewed Burma Young Holder at her Hollywood apartment. Now a lively 89-year-old, she looks back over a colorful life, reminiscing about the "high society" of wealthy Oralists, her two husbands, friends and notables, and her philosophy—with no regrets. 10

Publisher's Note

Another New Year—already! I hope that 1995 will be a good and fruitful year for all of us.

This month's cover story features Alex Ekman's interview and account of a delightful visit with Burma Young Holder, a sprightly 88-year-old living in Hollywood. Her own account of her adventures as a youthful exhibition skater, and her recollections of the "glory days" of Hollywood's Deaf and Oralist communities, are of historical interest.

Even though Burma Young Holder's career as a professional skater was cut short by World War I, and she chose not to resume it after the Armistice, her story shows that deaf people haven't simply been watching others achieve, they've been achieving too. We at **DEAF LIFE** are always interested in finding out about deaf achievers, in the past as well as the present. Their stories are not only entertaining and illuminating, they are also inspiring. Deaf people have participated in all kinds of exploits and adventures, and we enjoy "digging them out" and sharing them with our readers.

So—are there any Babe Youngs on the ice now? Are there any other elderly deaf people with scrapbooks of pictures and clippings and treasured memories of their own "feats on ice"? We'd like to know.

I extend my thanks to Mrs. Holder and to Alex and Miriam Ekman for providing a fascinating glimpse into a bygone era.

Matthew S. Moore

CONTENTS

TO CELEBRATE OR TO CURE?

■ After visiting Lexington Center during last spring's protests, Andrew Solomon took in the NAD Biennial Convention, and listened to what Deaf advocates, leaders, teachers, performers, and students, as well as oral-deaf people and hearing doctors had to say. He discusses the parallels between the Gay and Deaf communities, the cochlear-implant controversy, recent medical research, and the pros and cons of finding a cure. Reprinted from the August 28 issue of **The New York Times Magazine**. Second of two parts. **20**

READERS' VIEWPOINT

FAXVIEW

LIPREADING: MANDATORY, OPTIONAL, OR SKIP IT?

■ Our "Faxview" question about whether lipreading should be a required part of the deaf-ed curriculum drew a mixed response: 74% of our 305 respondents said yes; 24% said no; 2% weren't sure. The majority of respondents agree that lipreading is a valuable skill. Some depend on it completely. One reader writes: "There are a lot of advantages to being able to lipread—especially when we're not supposed to know what's being said in [a] given situation." Dissenters argue that it can be a form of oppression. "We have to stop allowing hearing people to dictate what's 'normal' and what's not," replies another reader. "Speech-training classes only encourage hearing parents to subscribe to the myth that deaf people can only 'make it' if they act and sound like hearing people." **32**

■ Letters 4
■ For Hearing People Only 6
■ **DEAF LIFE Plus** ..... **Insert**
■ FaxView 28

Deaf Life

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LETTERS

DPT shots: a nurse's advice

I am writing in reference to the article about Heather Whitestone, the new Miss America, that was in the recent October 1994 edition of **DEAF LIFE**. As the mother of a Deaf six-year-old and a Public Health Nurse with our local health department, I am compelled to write to furnish you with the correct information about how she became Deaf.

It was ***not*** due to a reaction to a childhood immunization known as the diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus vaccine, but due to an infection she contracted at age eighteen months, known as *Haemophilus Influenzae* disease. An infection that ***now*** can be prevented by a vaccination. To be even more detailed, the deafness was most likely caused by the antibiotics she received at the time to cure the infection. The medications that were used are in the family of antibiotics known as aminoglycosides, which are ototoxic and are ***known*** to cause hearing loss and deafness. None of the childhood vaccinations used currently have ***ever*** been linked to causing hearing loss or deafness in any way. I have enclosed a copy of the information we received at the health department from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics. I feel it is important that the correct information be furnished to the readers of **DEAF LIFE,** because I would hate to see any child not receive the proper immunizations and protection from these very serious vaccine-preventable diseases because of inaccurate information the subscribers may have read in your publication.

Our family is so excited that Heather Whitestone was crowned Miss America and Maureen Yates was crowned Miss Deaf America, and we will follow both reigns closely. Thank you for your time and don't hesitate to be in contact if you have any questions.

Margaret Austin
Marysville, Washington

Editors' note: *We initially quoted the "mis-fact" about the DPT shot from* ***USA Today****. But we were able to publish a correction in our November issue ("'The real culprit,'" "Media Clips," **DEAF LIFE Plus**, p. 22). Ms. Austin wrote to us before we sent out that issue.*

We were able to get the correct information because a reader sent us an E-mail Associated Press newsclip, which we quoted and summarized. It cited the American Academy of Pediatrics' position that the DPT shot did NOT cause Ms. Whitestone's hearing loss, and that the H-influenzae bacterial infection was undoubtedly to blame. The E-mail item (dated September 22) that Ms. Austin included with her letter is a different one, but originating with the AAP, and which takes essentially the same tack.

We suspect that the initial misinformation promulgated through the media (not just our magazine) has caused a flurry of anxiety in families, and we hope that the truth—and common sense—will prevail.

To Ms. Austin: Thanks for sharing your views. The truth bears repeating

"In the best interest of the child"

I have been reading your magazine now for the last five years and have always enjoyed the different issues you cover on deafness. I have shared your magazine with other deaf and hearing friends as well as professionals whom I work with daily, and with graduate students obtaining their master's degree in deaf education. This letter refers to this past October's issue, **DEAF LIFE Plus**, specifically, page 21, "The Predictable Response."

LETTERS

Your response to the Oral Hearing Impaired Section's resolution about cochlear implants was certainly a misrepresentation of the Bell Association's belief in choices. (Yes, we do promote the oral option, but not as the exclusive means of educating all children who are deaf.) We, the OHIS Executive Committee, wanted parents to know that we support their decision to choose what they feel is best for their child, as we support *any* parent who has to choose what medical treatment is best for their child. If a child is diagnosed with cancer, is chemotherapy the best solution or the right option? What about blindness—should the parent not seek a transplant that would help their child see, or instead have their child be blind because that is their "nature," or what everyone **else** feels is best for that child? Or, if a child was born with spina bifida, should the parents seek surgery or other rehabilitative measures to help them live with their disability comfortably?

In regards to choosing cochlear implants for small children, we, the OHIS Executive Committee members, feel that a child who has been screened thoroughly for a cochlear implant and is a strong candidate, should be given that opportunity. This is no different than trying different hearing aids or other technologies which may improve hearing. It is the parent's role, and indeed their **right** to make decisions they consider to be in the best interest of their child. Would you, sir, have the right to make choices for all the parents in this world? Would you, sir, not provide every benefit possible for your child's welfare?

I would like to challenge you to do some researching on those children who were implanted—both the successes and the failures. I challenge you to prove that the choices are wrong for each of these individuals you interview. I would like to know if we are putting too much emphasis on "deaf" as a label, and not enough emphasis on what a person has accomplished as an individual. If you have attended a Bell Association convention, then you have seen living proof of the association's philosophy on oral approaches and, furthermore, on choices. I have been a member of the Bell Association for the last twenty years, and am proud that we have moved along with the times, so to speak. The association provides all kinds of interpreters, be it oral, Cued Speech, ASL, etc., and responds to the requests of all our, including people who are deaf, hearing impaired, or hard of hearing.

Interestingly enough, we need a new word for us "deafies," because there is no real definition in classifying who we are. I have severe to profound sloping loss and rely on lipreading and listening with my hearing aid. I can sign fairly well but am weak with my receptive skills. Am I to be judged for being successful as an oral adult, or am I to be accused of being "hearing"? Speaking of choices, my parents tried to enroll me in a residential deaf school, but the school refused to accept me because I could use my residual hearing with proper amplification and I could speak. Gee, who made that choice for my parents?

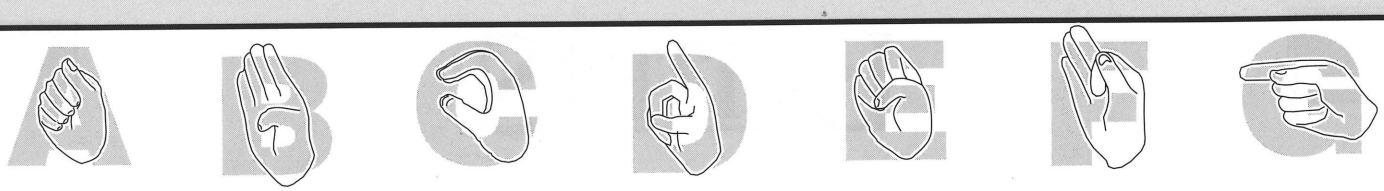
Karen Moody-Karpf
OHIS Chairperson
San Antonio, Texas

WHOOPS!

We accidentally omitted the name and city from a letter published on page 9 of our November 1994 issue, "A bit of 'Deaf enlightenment.'" It was written by **Ronald Bye** of San Jose, California. We apologize for the oversight.

LETTERS POLICY

All letters must be signed and have a return address. No anonymous (unsigned) letters will be published, but we will withhold your name on request. Send letters to: **DEAF LIFE**, c/o MSM Productions, Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380. FAX: 716-442-6371.



FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY™

My wife is deaf. I'm hearing. When we enter the deaf community, why do I feel like I'm from an alien nation? I want to fit in . . . but how?*

We'll start with the assumptions that this relationship is basically strong and healthy, and that this question refers to basically social situations.

As you undoubtedly know, Deaf/Hearing marriages are fairly common. And yet, judging by the statistics, these tend to be more risky than Deaf/Deaf ones. Even so, some prominent Deaf advocates and "leading figures" have hearing spouses. How do they reconcile "marrying out" with their philosophy of Deaf Pride?

In a word, love. In another, commitment.

Obviously, Deaf and Hearing partners find each other attractive at least partly because of their differences. Different backgrounds can doom a relationship—or add zest to it. In a successful partnership, the differences are balanced with a degree of commonality—shared values and interests. These could include children, religion, social activism, an ASL background, a particular sport (i.e., skiing) or passion (building a family, restoring old houses, gardening, collecting, operating a business, etc.). Partners in successful relationships often have wildly divergent interests and a few shared ones.

So what happens when the partners leave their home or business environment and venture together into, say, a Deaf club or social group, where one of them "belongs" and the other is an "alien"?

Communication is the most formidable barrier, followed closely by *attitude*. Obviously, it helps for the hearing spouse to know sign language. But in these Deaf-culture enclaves, hearing interlopers are apt to be viewed with suspicion, if not outright hostility. Hearing and late-deafened persons have told us how cruelly they were treated when they ventured into Deaf society. This, unfortunately, is to be expected. There are a considerable number of Deaf snobs—and just plain nasties. A hearing spouse has to learn how to handle these people when they perform their "if looks could kill" or "What the hell are *you* doing here?" acts. (Suggestion: shrug it off with an expression of exquisite boredom and go elsewhere.)

One thing to keep mind about "hostiles": most Deaf couples with kids have hearing children (and raise same), so what's their beef against hearing people?

The "alien" partner should count on getting moral support from the "belonging" one. So, Deaf folks, if your hearing

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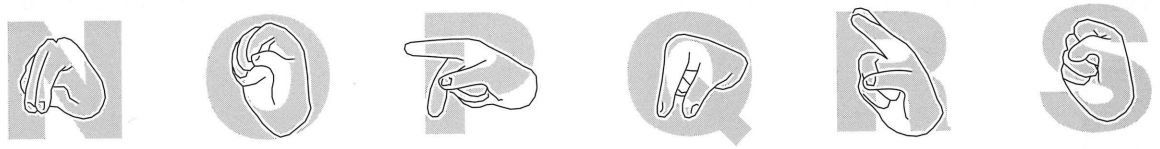

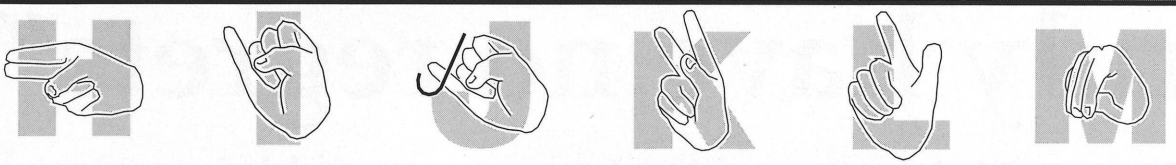

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spouse is being cut down by your Euchre League buddies, *you* should be prepared to deal with it assertively but politely.

One thing Deaf people resent—understandably—is when a hearing person tries to "elbow in" on a Deaf group. There is a fine distinction between being assertive and aggressive. If you have something to offer the group—your skill as a magician, juggler, or cardplayer; a mini-van; choice captioned or foreign videos; a basket of home-baked goodies—these can help ease the shock. You might also consider inviting the group (or a select part of it) to your territory for a party, buffet, or cookout—i.e., your own icebreaker.

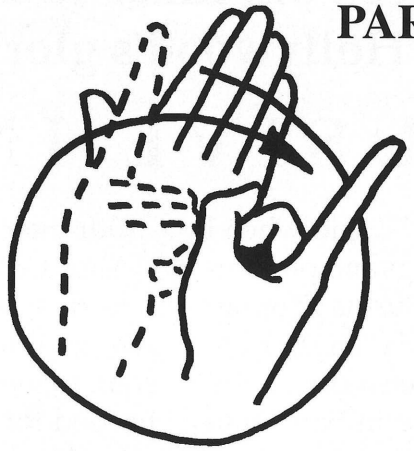
Some Deaf persons may warm up to a new arrival quickly. Others may keep a wary distance at first, but will gradually "come around." Still others never will. You, in turn, have to have a genuine commitment to the group (doing what you can to help out) and a measure of indomitable good will (without losing your self-respect).

And best of luck with the doughnuts.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the seventh question from DeAnn Sampley's students at Bakersfield College. Our thanks to Ms. Sampley and her students.

SIGNS OF THE MONTH

TIME
PART 10



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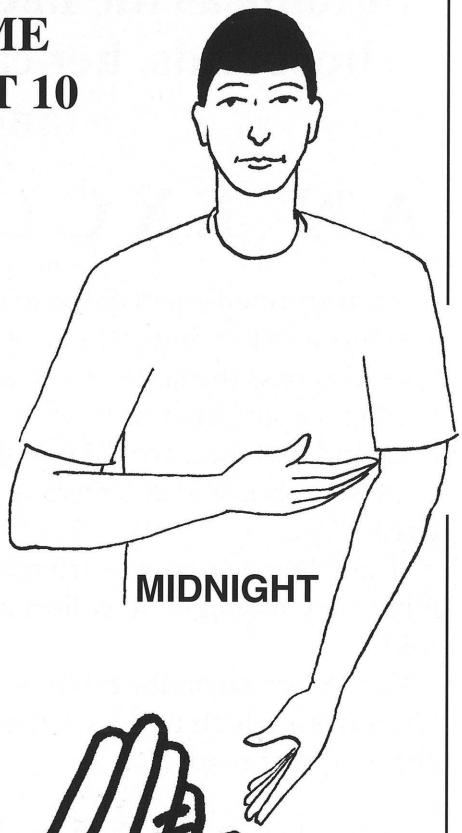
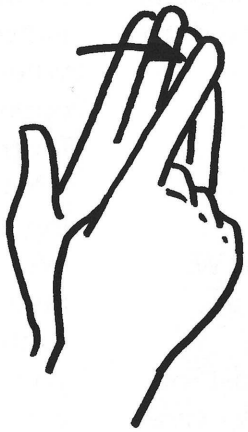


MIDNIGHT



MINUTE

SECOND

EDITORS' NOTE: If you have any questions about the correct formation of signs or facial expressions, ask a Deaf friend (i.e., a native ASL user) or a certified sign-language teacher.

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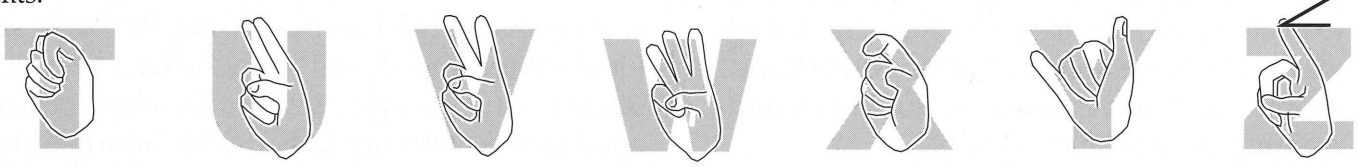

"I truly have no regrets"

Burma Young Holder looks back on a colorful life: a taste of fame as the nation's youngest exhibition skater, her two husbands, her career, old times in the Deaf community, and Hollywood's glory days

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

"I am stunned—to say the least!" I said when I was through looking at the clippings and pictures spread across the coffee table at Burma (Young) Holder's apartment in Hollywood. "Yeah, I understand that there would have been more.... But your scrapbook was lost in a fire in San Francisco."

"I got those from my friends and relatives—what they managed to collect and save," Burma said.

The collection on the table seemed enough material from which to do a writeup. I picked up a clipping that read:

> [Dateline: Portland, Oregon]
> *Saturday, October 20, 1917*
>
> GIRL SKATER PROVES ATTRACTIVE.
> "Babe" Young Delights Crowds at
> the Newly Opened Ice Palace.
>
> WHEN THE ICE PALACE opened last Saturday night, the patrons of the rink were delighted and astonished at the fancy skating of little "Babe" Young, a 12-year-old wonder on steel runners. She came from San Francisco where she has been performing feats on the ice which her instructor, Professor Hayden, confesses that he dare not attempt. Waltzing and two-stepping and toe-dancing on skates are far easier for her than plain skating to the average man. Miss Young expects some day to go to New York and startle the blase town out of its possessions. At the Ice Palace, she gives a matinee and evening exhibition every day.

Our interview went like this:

Alex: Did you go to New York?

Burma: No! It never happened. The timing was wrong. Europe was at war and our country was soon to join it. Ice rinks closed; their pipes were needed for the war efforts. And I had school to attend to, being still a kid; so my pretty costumes and skates were put away.

Alex: How did you get into ice exhibition so early in your life?

Burma: My father obtained work in maintenance at the ice-skating rink in San Francisco when I was nearly 11 years old. It afforded me an opportunity to go there with him and skate around for free in a pair of rented skates.

Not until Dad took Mother and me to the skating show at the Winter Garden one Saturday evening, did I get seriously interested; I was so fascinated by the show skaters doing their fancy routines on ice. I was especially impressed by a young star from New York, called "Maggie," executing her fancy steps. I pursed my lips and nodded and determined then and there to be like her. So I practiced hard at the rink while my father worked. Often at the rink, at a certain time of day, there was a crowd of skaters at the other end practicing under an instructor—a Mr. Hayden, a former ice racer from St. Paul, Minnesota. I kept to my side but watched them, then tried to copy their movements. Boy! Was I good at that—and Mr. Hayden couldn't help but notice me. Soon he came over and tried to speak to me. But being shy, I just smiled and skated away. After a few more unsuccessful attempts within a few days, he managed to talk with my father, who informed him

"I could do tricks that others couldn't."
"Babe" Young, age 11, at the Winter Garden
in San Francisco.

Burma Holder, May 3, 1994, a lively and vivacious 88-year-old.

that I was his daughter—and could not hear. He went away with a bowed head, but later came back again and tried to convince my father to let him train me for free. He told my father that I was a natural, the best young girl he had ever seen—and that my deafness would not be a problem—and that I deserved to improve my skill on ice.

Alex: How did you get into the Show Business?

Burma: After only a month of training under Mr. Hayden, I became his super pupil and could do tricks that others couldn't. I was examined by the Show management that used the Winter Garden and was asked to take part in their exhibitions. I was given pretty costumes and a pair of skates that fit. They let me choose whatever styles of fancy skating I wanted to perform. I met a lot of famous skaters and they were all very nice to me. Some became my lifelong friends, like Mr. Orrin Markhus and his dancing partners. They were known as the "Old Smoothies." They later became so renowned and skated in shows all over the world. Orrin and Miss Irma Thomas [his second wife] were the main "Star Attractions" with the Ice Capades for many years. He passed away in 1976, almost in his 80's.

Alex: Yes, I remember this very graceful pair—the "Old Smoothies"—having attended ice shows now and then in the past. I see here a postcard with a picture of a Russian scene mailed to you, postmarked 1954 from Mr. Markhus in Russia.

Burma: His [first] wife [Ellen] served as my chaperone and made my costumes—one of my favorites was a light tan coat with pretty brown boa feathers around its short hem. Here's a picture of me in it.

Alex: What about your being unable to hear the orchestra in order to be in step with its music beat?

Burma: About that: they were puzzled at first, but they managed to solve it. I was told to skate the way I wanted. The band would follow my movements. The strokes in skating are long and graceful, and the turnings either sharp or wide—not difficult to follow by the band. The audience was never the wiser; they even clapped thunderously when I tripped and fell on my little tush, slam-bang on the ice, with the bass drum dramatizing the fall with a loud *boom*! And the drum roll followed my quick jump up from the fall, then pretty melodious music commenced to follow me again as I skated to finish my act. I loved the applause from the patrons; it always inspired me to do my best for them.

Alex: Wonderful! Wish I had seen it! But then, I wasn't born yet. Can you tell us about yourself and your life history—and the cause of your deafness?

Burma: I was born Burma Alene Young on September 14, 1905, in Cooper, Iowa, the only child of Arlington LeRoy Young and Mabel Lorena Young. They were school sweethearts and became school-

teachers in Nebraska, he in math and she in English. Then they went into ranching at Grand Junction, Colorado, where I was raised. In 1913 they sold the ranch and moved to San Francisco. I had been deaf since infancy; cause unknown. We looked into the School for the Deaf in Berkeley, but were advised that I should attend the oral day school in San Francisco because I could speak and lipread far above average—thanks to my teacher-parents who had taught me with love and patience. After a few years at that Oral, I attended a private school for two years. Then I attended the Santa Fe School in Oakland in its oral classes. That's when I met your wife, Miriam, when she enrolled there as a young child. I was a teenager then. I then finished my education at University High School, regular classes. Then three months of business college to acquire office-working skills—which I have put to good use since then.

Alex: It's always a joy to meet the well-educated like yourself! I see you use English-ASL with mouthing of the words, which hints that you had a strong Oral background. When in your life did you learn signing?

Burma: In 1926 I moved with my parents from Oakland to Hollywood where my father was offered a job in the scenery department of the Warner Brothers Movie Studios. And I managed to secure an office job with Hollywood Box Company, which lasted until it closed due to the Depression in the early '30s. As to how and when I learned signing—I fell in love with a handsome Deaf guy, Peter Martin Barthe, who was a famous all-around athlete at Berkeley, Class of 1919. Through him I got to mingle with the Deaf of Los Angeles and Southern California. I picked up signing fast and could understand all manners of signing even though I kept my own English-ASL style. Peter Barthe and I got married on October 6, 1927. Peter was a subcontractor in hardwood floorings. See this photo of one floor with inlaid-wood design in a Hollywood film executive's mansion. Yes, it's a work of art! Peter was very skilled in that vocation—and was always busy working on the floors of the Movie Colony's homes—and of bankers and doctors. But he managed to find time to help found the Deaf Club—then called the "Sphinx Club"—which eventually became Los Angeles Club of the Deaf with as many as 1,000 members in its heyday in the late '40s and early '50s. Peter was elected its first president and served two terms. During World War II, Peter went to work in the defense industry as a machinist. That's where he injured his eye. With the war over, he returned to his beloved hardwood-floor contracting. He passed away at age 54 in 1956. He was almost blind. No children from this marriage.

Alex: Yes, I remember him, having seen you at the LACD once in a while. You were usually in the company of my old friend, Don Holder. Did you get another office job after that first job in Hollywood?

Burma: I found employment with the largest department store in L.A. Its main palace was a huge 6-story affair right in downtown. Top three floors were the offices full of us girls working all kinds of office equipment. When IBM keypunching machines came into vogue, I managed to learn how to operate them. I enjoyed my other job—carrying papers up and down the floors—which afforded me exercise that I so much desired, being physically active. I stayed with May Company until 1970, when I retired at age 65.

Alex: You didn't stay widow very long; you married again.

Burma: Yes, I married our old family friend, William Don Holder, on December 21, 1957. Originally from Texas with a short year at Gallaudet. Known him since 1934 when he came to California. Don worked as prop-man at various movie studios—wherever his union hiring hall sent him—like M.G.M., Paramount, Columbia, Warner Brothers, R.K.O., and 20th Century Fox. He eventually took early retirement and passed away at age 65. Lost him on June 17, 1978—he was a good man and wonderful company; dearly miss him!

Alex: Yes, I remember him. We at the Turf, a watering hole for us working stiffs as well as for all kind of street people, called him "Dapper Don." He was always tastefully dressed, like a "man-about-town." Trigger-quick sense of humor and very sensitive funny-bone. Elmer Priester, Maurice Shapiro, Ed Gonzales, Val Owen, *et al.*, were his contemporaries—all a decade older than I, but Don was closest to me as an elder brother-friend. Very modest but intelligent fellow. You sure captured the two most eligible bachelors, in

Lineup at the Winter Garden, San Francisco, 1917. Left to right: Charles Uskilla, Margaret Kirkrith, Louis Roswell, Walter Parks and Thelma Deutch, Orrin Markhus, "Babe" Young, Ellen Markhus, Max Schmidt and Ray Collins, Roy "Bunny" Geiser and George Traherne, Carl Waltenberg.

Peter Barthe and Don Holder. I also heard that you once won a beauty contest. Where? When?

Burma: Oh! That was nothing! Well, around 1950's for May Company's annual publications, they wanted to pick the most beautiful girl employee. I was stunned when I won; I didn't expect it. I only did it to please my bosses, not wanting to be a kill-sport. Imagine! I was then in my middle age at 45—old enough to be some girl's mother! This is the picture of me—[*handing me a portrait from the table*]. Although I was still firm in body and smooth of skin with my still-natural red hair, but I still thought other younger ones were better-looking.

Alex: This is a picture of a stunning beauty—projecting such vitality and sparkle. Your personality seems to come through!

Burma: Oh, well! Having had a show-business background must have helped. You have learned to comport yourself with confidence and move gracefully, you know. . . . So I must have had an advantage. . . . Ha!

The day was getting long. Burma rose from her seat and asked us how about going out to dinner. She said that she had in mind a good place near there that served good American-style dishes. So we went to that nice café on Western Avenue and settled into a corner booth. We took our time, eating and talking leisurely.

Miriam asked her if she had lived in Hollywood all the time since the move from Oakland in 1926 with her parents.

"Yes, all the time in Hollywood, moving around," Burma said. "Used to be a beautiful place, this Hollywood. My first husband, Peter Barthe, never saw its decline, which started in the mid-'60s. But now you can see this Tinsel Town is in a state of rejuvenation. And I'm glad because I love to ride or walk around town attending shows, visiting, and shopping."

"I suppose you have been to most of its finest restaurants and nightclubs during those better days?" I ventured to ask. "Such as the Brown Derby, the Coconut Grove, Spiff's Drive-In, and so on . . ."

Burma's eyes brightened. "Oh, yes! Ciro's, the Trocadero, the Romanoff's where the film stars socialize and celebrate. Been to them all. Yes, I know that not many Deaf have been to those highly expensive glamour spots. It just happened that my husbands and I were taken there by our wealthy and influential hearing or Oralist friends. Remember that neither Peter Barthe or Don Holder were just run-of-the-mill guys; they were 'can-do' guys who had won respect and admiration from their bosses and superiors in the film industry. We were often invited to their weddings, anniversaries, parties, etc., taking place around their palatial estates, at their private clubs, or at those watering holes of the rich celebrities. Lots of our Oralist friends came from moneyed families involved in banking, real estate, and the film industry. And very few of them ever bothered to look into our ASL-Deaf Culture because they were raised to acquire speech and lipreading so that they could do what their rich parents wanted—to mix with the general population. True,

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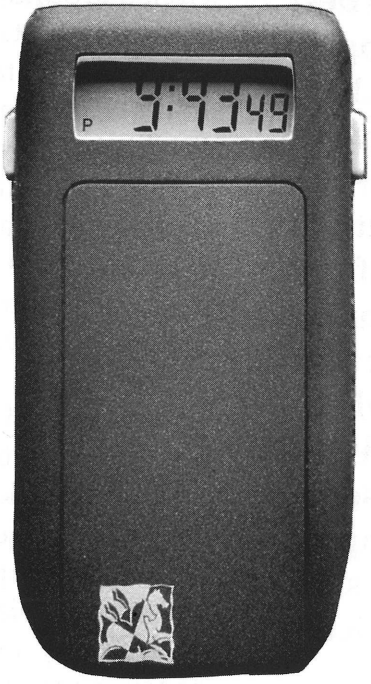

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not all of our Oralist friends did that in their later years; they picked up sign language and mixed with us as well as outside of us. The successful among the Oralists got into important vocations and businesses and professions—and some with the help of their influential fathers."

"This brings to mind one of them who owned an insurance agency," I said. "Lots of us, ASL-Deaf, were his clientele in auto insurance."

"Oh, yes!" Burma said. "Norman Kendall. He and his wife, Ladonna, were close friends of ours. Yes, a big insurance agency right in that tallest building on Hollywood Boulevard. We socialized with them often, went boating in their motor-yacht all along the coast and around Catalina and the islands. No, they are no longer living. The agency must have passed on to the heirs, I imagine."

"I once came across a guy at Hollywood Club of the Deaf in the late '40s," I said. "Forgot his name. He couldn't sign at all, but I could lipread him all right as he talked wide-mouthed with gestures. He worked on some machinery at the Walt Disney Studios, where, a few years before that, I was offered a trial job as an artist, but I was then making twice as much money in dry-cleaning work than what it offered."

"Did you know Ernest Bardfeld?" Burma asked me. "Was a friend of yours too! Good! Well, I consider him one of the best Deaf persons in Southern California.[1] He did much to open the way for us to get into the defense industry around the time just fore the USA entered World War II. Before that, there had been discrimination against hiring the hearing-impaired, you know?"

We talked some more over the dessert, then got into my car and drive up Sunset Boulevard as far as Fairfax Avenue, then down Hollywood Boulevard. Saw much improvement work going on in both streets.

Back to Burma's apartment. Sitting around the coffee table piled high with papers and stuff, we continued the interview.

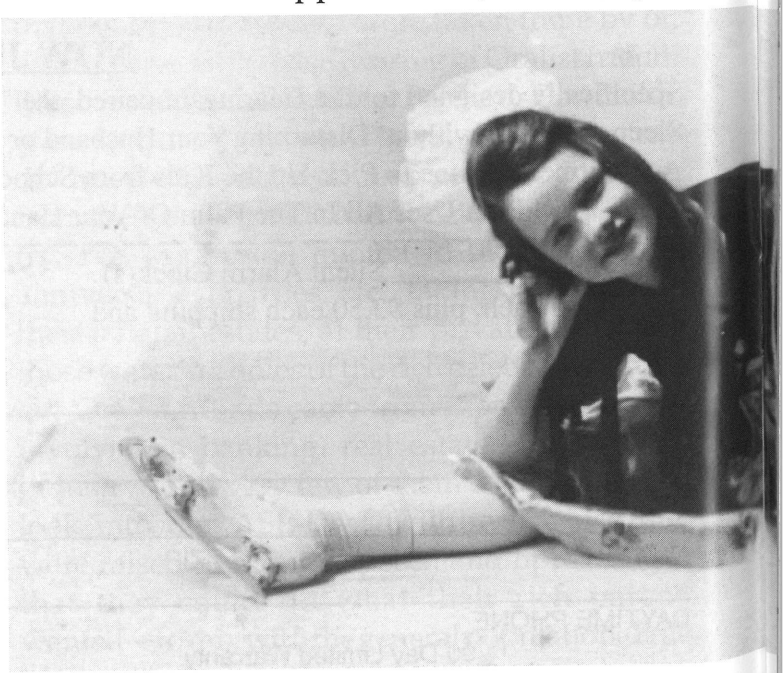
Alex: It is hard to believe that you never returned to the Ice Show business after you finished school. Can you explain why?

Burma: During the war the rinks were not available. The war was over in 1919 and I was almost full-grown. I was duty-bound to obtain as much education as I could, and my focus was on that—although I went to the ice rinks when they again became available to the public. I skated around and went through my old routines in the middle of the rink while the other skaters circled around it—but that was the extent of it. No attempt was made to re-enter the shows. As to the Ice Capades and Ice Follies hitting town, I manage not to miss attending them. I recognized some skaters in them and they knew me too. But I never tried to get into them.

"Mr. Hayden told my father that I was a natural, the best young girl he had ever seen—and that my deafness would not be a problem—and that I deserved to improve my skill on ice."

Alex: Did you know Sonja Henie?[2]

Burma: Yes! I admired her. She did much to bring popularity to figure skating, making it one of the chiefs shows in the Winter Olympics. Sonja was truly a trail-blazer. I was more of a dancer on ice. Later, ice dancing was brought into the contest. No, I could not have made the Olympics because I was a professional. Look what happened to Jim Thorpe's



Olympic medals! He lost them because he played professional baseball. Yes, the times have changed and the rules were liberalized not long ago. Anyone is welcome—amateur or pro. I was born 70 years too early for that. Ha! Ha!

Alex: What if you were allowed to be in the Olympics, how do you think you would have fared?

Burma: Oh! Ha! Ha! You love to speculate, don't you, Alex? Well... All I can say is that I had been doing some difficult tricks and stunts that even Sonja Henie didn't do, and many skaters after her either. Only recently in ice dancing I saw them doing it, but then they do many other attractive tricks that I never knew about.

Alex: What trick was it that your instructor told the Portland press he dared not attempt?

Burma: See the photo of me with folded hands and a smirk, skating sideways, skates in line, ankles out? It's called the Spread Eagle. While skating a semicircle, I could jump up into a spin-around, then back into the same position while still moving. I did that while skating a wide figure-8 on ice. Not many could do that. My coach was awed by it; that was why he mentioned it.

"We should do away with worry—worry is a form of mental disease caused by fear and not enough faith in all the goodness of Divine Providence. This is what my long life has taught me."

During her Ice Palace days: Portland, Oregon, 1917.

Alex: Forgive me if I say that yours is a case where talent went to waste. Even if you didn't return to exhibition skating, you would have made a wonderful coach for the Deaf skaters in the Deaf Olympics.[3]

Burma: Well . . . Maybe so, but I haven't heard of any Deaf figure skater from USA in the Deaf Olympics. Have you?

Alex: I don't remember of any—not even in ice dancing. Say, were you ever written up in any of the Deaf publications before this?

Burma: I suppose someone sent the clippings of my exploits on the ice to the old Deaf publications—by those who knew I was Deaf. Early in the 1950s Art Kruger once asked for an interview like this, but I turned it down.

Alex: Oh! What a shame! So many have gone to their graves without ever knowing about you. Why did you refuse?

Burma: Perhaps I was still shy and modest—I just didn't think it was of any importance then. Oh, Art Kruger was our dear friend; he also worked in the film industry—for a company that furnished costumes for the studios. He and I probably had thought that there would always be another time for the interview. But, as it turned out, it never came about. Now the great sportswriter is no longer around. God bless his soul.

Alex: Well . . . it's about time the world got to know about you. Hopefully, we're making history with this interview. So many of your contemporaries are no longer around, and what is left of them are in rest homes and convalescent hospitals. You're 88—yet you don't look that old! You walk faster than Miriam and I do. You take the stairs easily, it seems, while Miriam and I have to struggle. You don't even wear glasses and you still have your own teeth, if I'm not mistaken. What is your secret?

Burma: Oh, ha! Ha! No secret at all! Well. . . it could be in my genes, as they say. My father lived to a ripe old age. But my mother died in her middle years. I do keep myself physically active; I walk a lot. Used to wear glasses before I had eye surgery; now I see almost like normal. I wear

sunglasses outdoors from the glare. I also take acupuncture treatment for arthritis around my knees. It brings me relief. I just don't believe in the chemicals the medical doctors use for which they charge a month's-rent amount.

Alex: Yeah! How true! I have friends who swear by acupuncture—and the charges for that treatment cost only one-tenth of the AMA's. Your attitude and outlook are very positive. You know—"What man thinks he is, so is he." It's the mind that rules.

Burma: We should do away with worry—worry is a form of mental disease caused by fear and not enough faith in all the goodness of Divine Providence. This is what my long life has taught me.

Alex: I suppose this interview is coming to its conclusion. But there is one more question about your skating. Looking back on your life, do you have any regrets?

Burma: Oh, there are always those "Could have been" thoughts, you know—who doesn't amongst us of the advanced years? I know that my life could have been different in the outcome had I gone to New York when the opportunity was there, and got into the Ice Show business. And I could have enjoyed all that glitter, the limelight, the applause, fame and fortune, etc. But "if" is a big word, you know. There is a fork on our path of life. It is always that invisible hand of Destiny that leads us to which path to take—and I believe that invariably that path chosen was the right one—otherwise you and I and Miriam wouldn't be here at this moment in time and space. So living a life full of regrets is for the birds. We all should be quite contented the way our lives turned out. The way my life turned out, like marrying into the Deaf Culture where I actually belonged, and my work, my friends, my career in the merchandising business, and so on. . . I truly have no regrets!

Notes

[1] "Ernest Bardfeld died some years ago at age 72—a press man at various newspapers in California—didn't seem to be an Oralist, the way he signed beautifully, but Burma wanted him mentioned. He was well-known everywhere; he was the one who brought an Oriental deaf boy with a disfigured face to the USA to undergo plastic surgery."—A. E.

In 1971, Chung Feng-Wang, 13, underwent corrective surgery at St. Francis Hospital in San Francisco for a congenital cleft lip and palate. Bardfeld, a pressman at San Francisco Newspaper Printing Co. (which produced the **Examiner** and the **Chronicle**) had met the boy in 1966 while visiting the Taipei School for the Deaf, Taiwan, and spent four-and-a-half years "of relentless effort," enlisting the help of friends, co-workers, and supporters, to bring him to the States for surgery. Hundreds of dollars were raised. Dr. Vincent Pennisi, a noted plastic and reconstructive surgeon, donated his services. The **San Francisco Chronicle** publicized the story (with several reports). More than five operations were needed to correct Chung's severe disfigurement; during his stay in the States, he attended California School for the Deaf in Berkeley and, for a year, lived with the Glenn Baldwin family in Oakland on weekends. He later returned to Taiwan, and Bardfeld lost contact with him.

In 1972, Bardfeld went to Seoul, Korea, "on a private mission," urging the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs to take positive action to end job discrimination against deaf Koreans. He later advocated for the rights of deaf prisoners in Mexican jails.

In 1981, Bardfeld, then 65 and preparing to retire, was highlighted in the **Examiner** when he donated a "prized collection of miniature trains" to the Seoul School for the Deaf. He died of cancer on November 11, 1987.

[2] Sonja Henie (1912-1969), Norwegian-born figure skater. Trained in ballet, she incorporated several its maneuvers into figure skating, transforming a dull and predictable sport into a spectacular and popular one. She won the world amateur women's championship for 10 consecutive years, and was a three-time Olympic gold medalist (1928, 1932, and 1936). After her triumph in the 1936 Olympics, she turned professional, achieving great financial success as a skater, actress, and businesswoman. She was a Hollywood box-office star. She became a U.S. citizen in 1941 and was twice married to Americans; her third husband was a Norwegian shipping magnate, and with him, Henie co-founded a modern-art museum. She died at age 57 in a plane crash while en route to Oslo.

[3] Properly called World Games for the Deaf.

Deaf Life By Alex Ekman
Photos courtesy of Burma Holder and Miriam Ekman

About the author:

Alexander Waino Ekman lives in Hemet, California, with his wife, Miriam McLaren Owen Ekman, and is a colorful character himself. A native of Lawler, Minnesota (Finnish was his native language), he was deafened at age 5 by spinal meningitis, and educated at various oral schools. He held a variety of jobs, and "joined the Beatnik movement" in the mid-'50s. **Silent Song**, his collection of prose and verse, was published in 1980. He is now coping with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease).

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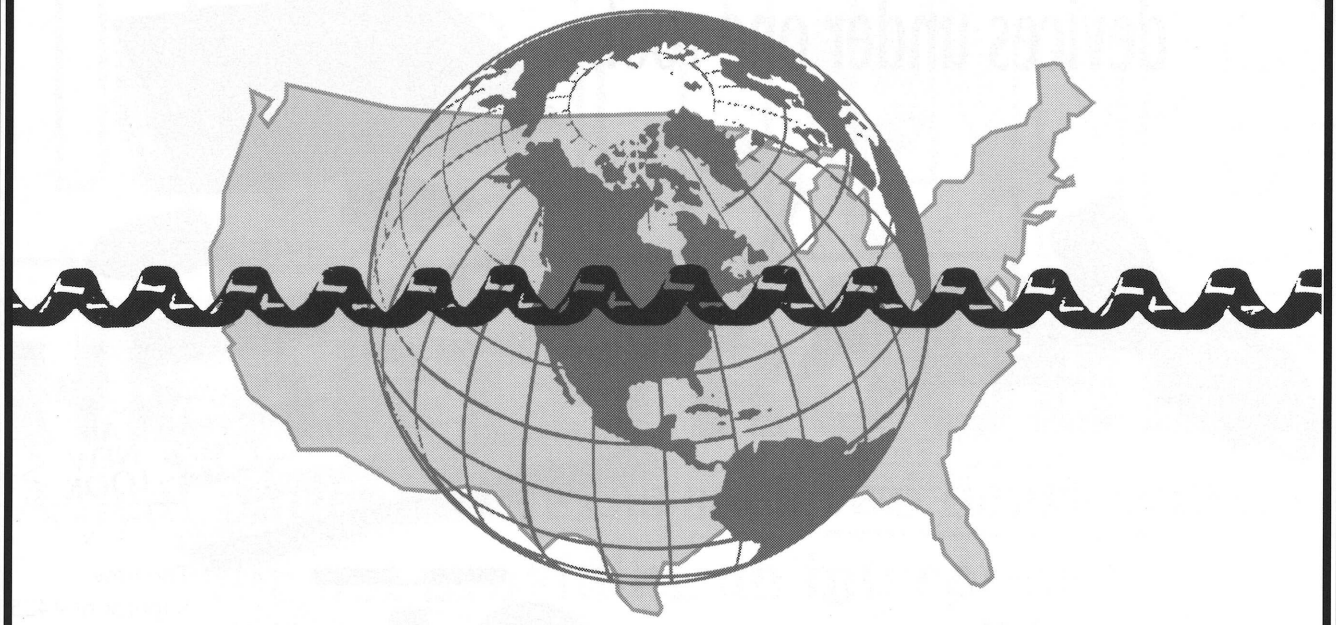

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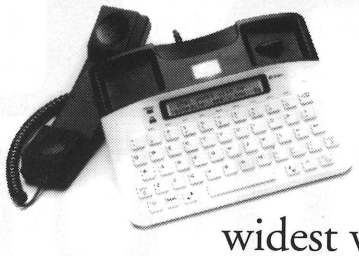
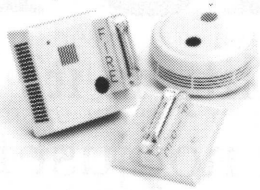
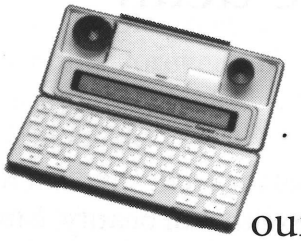


Weitbrecht Communications offers the widest variety of TTYs and assistive devices available.  We help you select all the options that are best for you! Choose from our complete line of Ultratec TTYs, or from our large selection of assistive devices including telephone amplifiers, alarm/wake-up clocks, alerting systems, listening devices, signalers, decoders, and more!



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The Deaf community is painfully factionalized. Nonetheless,

DEAF IS BEAUTIFUL

But how great a disability is it? Much will turn on the answer, and not just for the deaf.

PART TWO

A 'FAMILY' GATHERING

Fresh from Lexington, I go to England to meet leaders of the British Deaf community. Word of the protests has reached them through the Deaf media (a broad range of local and international newspapers, newsletters, special television programs, fax and E-mail), but in Britain there has been no equivalent of Gallaudet's Deaf President Now; the situation I describe seems inconceivable. "We're 40 years behind," says Doug Alker, the only Deaf executive at the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (which the Deaf call Really Not Interested in the Deaf). "Most deaf people in Britain see themselves as victims." Hearing people often make the mistake of assuming that sign is a universal language, but there are almost as many signed as spoken languages. American Sign Language is related to French sign (because of Laurent Clerc), but British sign is extremely different.

I also visit the famed Deaf Scottish musician Evelyn Glennie, who can feel the trembling of the separate instruments of an orchestra. can modulate her voice's timbre with real beauty, can even understand words through vibration. Her solo percussion performances astonish. "If I had a deaf child," she says, "I would teach him by holding him against my body all the time, so he could feel the vibrations of my speech. I would lie with his hands on my throat, hold him against my heart, lay him on the piano so he could learn about sound and music from the air. With a hearing child, I'd do the same. Your ears are just one of a multitude of ways of experiencing sound."

Back in the United States, I attend the biennial National Association of the Deaf convention, which takes place this year in Knoxville, Tenn., with almost 2,000 Deaf participants. At Lexington, I saw Deaf people stand up to the hearing world. I learned how a TTY (a telephone-*cum*-typewriter device for the Deaf) works, met pet dogs who understood sign, talked about mainstreaming and oralism and the integrity of visual language. I became accustomed to doorbells that flashed lights instead of ringing. But

none of this could have prepared me for the immersion that is the NAD convention, where the brightest, most politicized, most committed Deaf gather for political focus and social exchange. The association has been the center of Deaf self-realization and power since it was founded in 1880. There, it is not a question of whether the hearing will accept the existence of Deaf culture, but of whether Deaf culture will accept the hearing.

I arrive the night of the president's reception. There are 1,000 people in the grand ballroom of the Hyatt Regency, the lights turned up because these people are unable to communicate in darkness. The crowd is nearly soundless; you hear the claps that are part of the articulation of ASL, the clicks and puffing noises the deaf make when they sign, and occasionally their big uncontrolled laughter. People greet each other as if they have been waiting forever for these encounters—the Deaf community is close, closed and affectionate.

Deaf people touch each other far more than the hearing, and everyone here hugs friends. I see demonstrators I got to know at Lexington and people I talked to only in formal interviews; here at the NAD, there are no barriers and boundaries, and I, too, find myself hugging people as if I have known them forever. Yet I must be careful of the difference between a friendly and a forward embrace; how you touch communicates a world of meaning in Deaf circles. I must be careful of looking abstractedly at people signing; they will think I am eavesdropping. I do not know any of the etiquette of these new circumstances. "Good luck with the culture shock," more than one person says to me, and I get many helpful hints.

As I look across the room it seems as if some strange human sea is breaking into waves and glinting in the light, as thousands of hands move at stunning speed, describing a spatial grammar with sharply individual voices and accents. The association is host to the Miss Deaf America pageant, and the young beauties, dressed to the nines and sporting their state sashes, are objects of considerable attention. "Look how beautifully she expresses herself," says someone, pointing to one contestant, and then, of another: "Can you believe that blurry Southern signing? I didn't think anyone really signed like that!" (Regional variations of sign can be dangerous: the sign that in New York slang means "cake" in some Southern states means "sanitary napkin," which led to considerable confusion at mealtimes; my own poor articulation led me to invite someone not to have "lunch," but to have "a lesbian.")

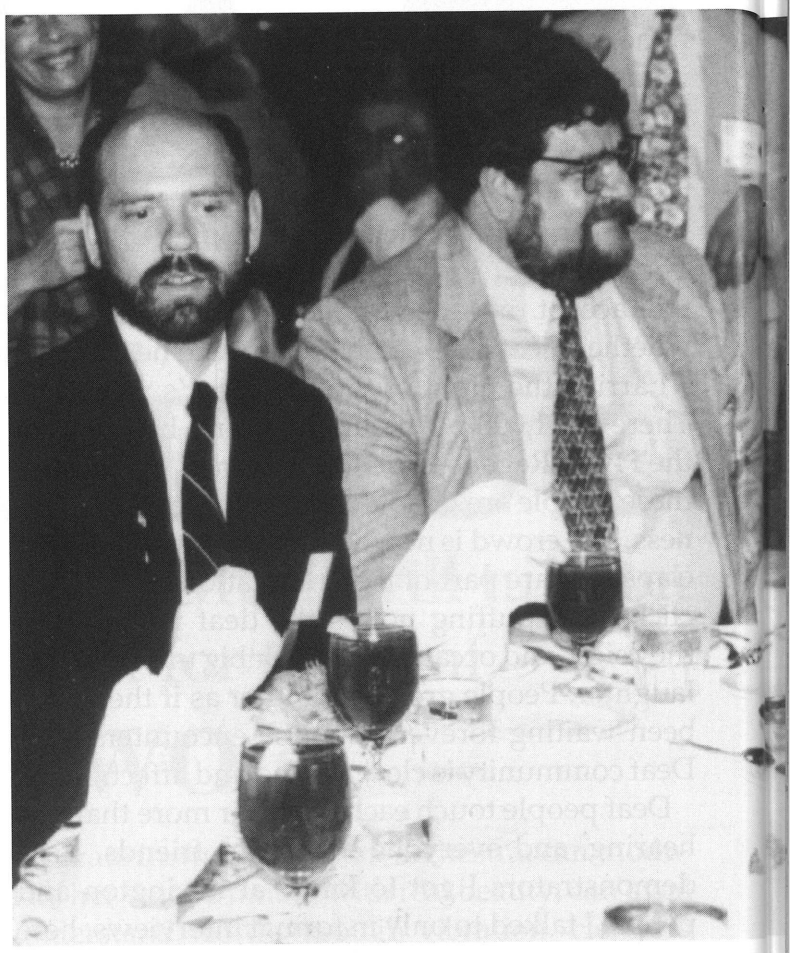
The luminaries of the Deaf world—activists, actors, professors—mix comfortably with the beauty queens. I am one of perhaps a dozen hearing people at this party. I will soon come to understand better how factionalized the Deaf community is. (M. J. Bienvenu and Jackie Roth and Greg Hlibok, for example, do not seem to like each other, though "all the factions always pull together when necessary," M. J. reassures.) I will hear of the crab theory (if one crab is strong enough to climb out of the barrel, the others pull him back down; Deaf people use this metaphor to describe their community all the time), and I will see how petty ideology has split a community that once stood firmly united. Nonetheless, the basic fact of Deaf culture remains. I have heard Deaf people talk about how their "family" is in the Deaf community. Rejected in so many instances by parents with whom they cannot communicate, united by their struggle with a world that is seldom understanding of them, they have formed inviolable bonds of love of a kind that are rare in hearing culture. At the National Association of the Deaf, they are unmistakable. Disconcerting though it may sound, it is impossible, here, not to wish you were Deaf. I had known that Deaf culture existed, but I had not guessed how heady it is.

The association members are a tiny minority, less than 10 percent of the nation's Deaf; most deaf people are what the Deaf call "grass roots." The week after the convention, the national Deaf bowling championships in Baltimore will attract a much larger crowd, people who go to Deaf

clubs, play cards and work in blue-collar jobs. Below them in the Deaf status structure are the peddlers (the Deaf word for the mendicants° who "sell" cards with the manual alphabet on subways—the established Deaf community tried as early as the 40's to get them off the streets); on Lexington Avenue around 103rd Street in New York, some homeless deaf were living on the roof of a building. "Those people also," says Jackie Roth, "whatever they have lost, have this connectedness in their own Deaf communities. It comes with the territory, so long as they are not isolated from other Deaf people."

During the following week, I will do dozens of interviews, struggling to pick up the subtleties of ASL accent that betray so much of the meaning of what people are saying. I will discuss the Deaf travel industry with Aaron Rudner, of Deafstar Travel, who started this business going, and with Joyce Brubaker, of Deaf Joy Travel, [the first such agency run by a deaf woman]. I will watch videos of eloquent signers telling stories. I will attend seminars on ASL usage, on AIDS, on domestic violence. I will talk to Alan Barwiolek, who founded the New York Deaf Theatre, about the difference between plays translated for the Deaf and Deaf plays.* I will see Deaf comedians. (Ken Glickman, a.k.a. Professor Glick: "Deaf and dumb? No, I'm deaf and bright. You must be hearing or you wouldn't have asked me that. You think I'm hearing-impaired? I think you're deaf-impaired, and I can sell you, cheap, a deafing aid. This ball of cotton wool can help any profoundly hearing person who needs it. Put one in each ear and we'll be making a start. My blind dates are always deaf dates. You ever been on a deaf date? You go out with someone and then you never hear from her again.") Over dinner, Bernard Bragg will do his lyrical signed translations of William Blake while his pasta gets cold. (Signers can talk with their mouths full, but they can't easily cut up their food and talk at once.)

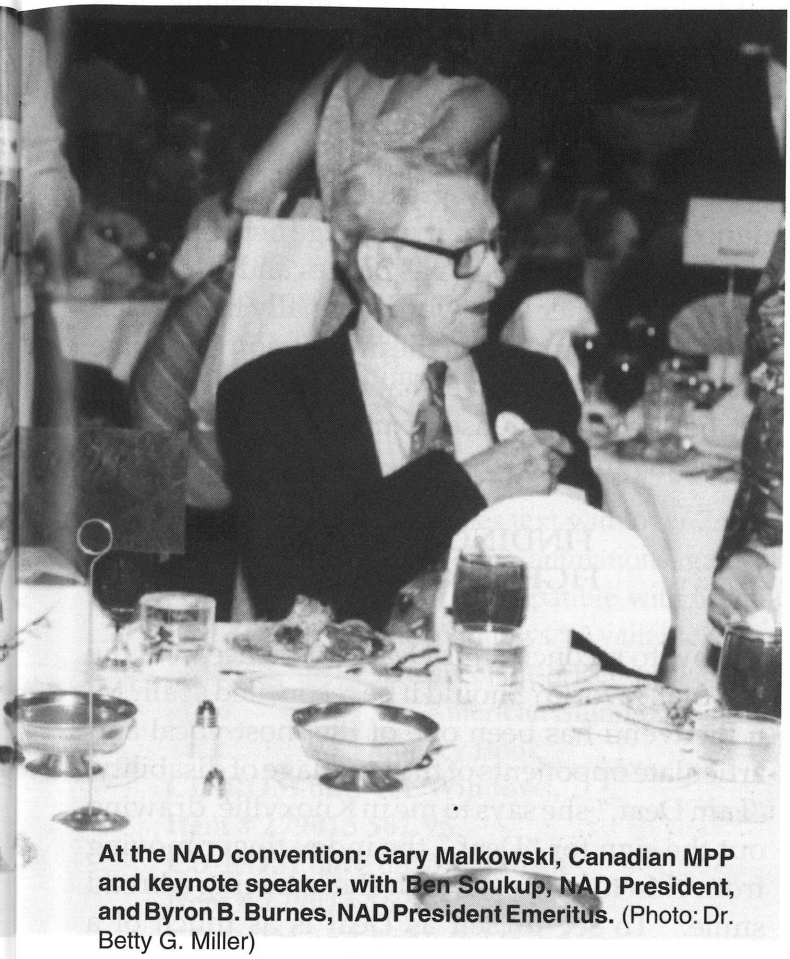
Gary Mowl, head of the ASL department at National Technical Institute for the Deaf, has



come to the conference with his children. He often corrects their grammar and usage in ASL. The importance of having a correct language—"Gallaudet ASL," an answer to standard English—has only recently been recognized. "People ask why you need to teach ASL to native signers. Why do English-speaking students study English?" I think of the sign used by the Deaf gangs of Harlem and the East Village, which is completely incomprehensible to an ASL-user.

Late one night, I am watching captioned television with Deaf friends. "When I was little, before captioning came in," one says, "we used to watch TV as a family. It was great. We would compare notes on what we saw and propose our own versions of the plot. Later, if we saw other Deaf friends who had seen the same show, we would all discuss what we thought had happened. We would construct personalities and events from

DEAF AND GLAMOROUS.



At the NAD convention: Gary Malkowski, Canadian MPP and keynote speaker, with Ben Soukup, NAD President, and Byron B. Burnes, NAD President Emeritus. (Photo: Dr. Betty G. Miller)

our guesswork and imaginations; it was practice for the guesswork and humor we need to interpret the world. We laughed so much, and it brought us so close together." He stops for a moment, and we both look back at the television with its neatly typed messages. "Of course having captions on the news is great, but—this is so boring by comparison to the old days."

I get into a lot of conversation about interpreters: the shortage of interpreters is appalling. There is always competition between CODA (Children of Deaf Adults; refers only to hearing people) professional interpreters and non-CODA ones. The complexities and ambivalences of CODA-Deaf relations, humorously but knowingly conveyed by Lou Ann Walker in **A Loss for Words**, are a big part of Deaf culture. (I have the good fortune to work with a CODA named Marie Taccogna, a gifted interpreter who translates both language and culture.) At public meetings, there are often interpreters who are "doing some kind of a dance," says Rob Roth, who is at the National Association of the Deaf to represent AT&T, "which is lovely as interpretive performance but conveys no information in a language I speak. Hearing people love their picturesque eloquence."

A New York City court recently refused to get a new interpreter for a plaintiff who couldn't understand the trial as it was interpreted to her. There are lawsuits pending involving Beth Israel and New York University hospitals for failure to provide interpreting services. Early this year, Leah Hager Cohen—daughter of Oscar Cohen—published an eloquent book, **Train Go Sorry**, which follows the careers of a few students at Lexington, and through a stunningly empathetic examination of their stories and her own creates a brilliant narrative of Deaf culture. One of the most moving passages in that book describes the death of Leah Cohen's grandfather. Oscar tried to stay on the hospital to interpret for his father, but was prevented on grounds that the hospital had an interpreter. The interpreter was in fact off-duty for the weekend, and Oscar's father died without being able to communicate with his doctors, without knowing what was happening to him or where he was going, without being consulted about his own treatments.

On Thursday, there is a College Bowl involving Gallaudet, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and California State University at Northridge. I am impressed by the questions (I cannot answer more than half), and I remember how, 20 years ago, the deaf were generally held to be somewhat retarded. Friday night is Miss Deaf America. For the talent section, two girls do monologues about AIDS. There is some signed poetry, some signed music. The National Deaf Dance Theatre, whose members pick up the nuance of music through its vibrations, do a dramatic stage piece, and Bob Daniels, a partly deaf performer, does a dance and sign number to "With You on My Arm" from ***La Cage Aux Folles***. The emcees

are Bernard Bragg (who could, tonight, be Bert Parks) and Mary Beth Barber (who was Miss Deaf America in 1980). For the onstage interview, each of the semifinalists is asked how she feels about doctors' attempts to cure the deaf. "If someone's unhappy with being deaf and he wants to change it, that's up to him," says Genie Gertz, Miss Deaf New York, succinctly. "I wouldn't ever change it. Why would I?" I am in the cheering section for Genie, the beautiful daughter of Russian Jewish parents who came to this country from Leningrad when she was 8. In an eloquently rendered monologue written for the talent section, she tells the story of her parents' struggle against Communism, and of the freedom everyone found in the United States—which included, for her, the move from being a social misfit to being Deaf and proud. I have made endless jokes about the Miss Deaf America Contest and yet in reality it's surprisingly moving. It is such a striking idea, such a radical one, that you can be Deaf and glamorous.

The V.I.P. party after the gentle, radiant Miss Deaf Maryland has won is back in the grand ballroom at the Hyatt. I am talking to Alec Naiman, whom I first met at Lexington. A world traveler, he was one of the pilots in this year's Deaf fly-in at the Knoxville airport. We are discussing a trip he made to China. "I met some deaf Chinese people my first day, and went to stay with them. Deaf people never need hotels; you can always stay with other Deaf people. We spoke different signed languages, but we could make ourselves understood. Though we came from different countries, Deaf culture held us together. By the end of the evening we'd talked about Deaf life in China, and about Chinese politics, and we'd understood each other linguistically and culturally." I nod. "No hearing American could do that in China," he says. "So who's disabled then?"

At 2:30, I still have not left. I remember that one Deaf sociologist is writing a thesis on Deaf goodbyes. Until the 1960's, deaf people had no means of communication except letters, telegrams or personal appearances. If you wanted to organize dinner with a friend, you had to go to his house; you could take two days just inviting people to a party. Saying goodbye was never easy; you would suddenly remember whatever you had forgotten to tell, and, knowing it would be some time before you could make contact again, you would keep on saying goodbye, and you would keep on not leaving. "It's a Deaf party," people had said to me of more than one event. "It'll go on forever." And so this evening, it is impossible to tear yourself away. People are even more physical, more flirtatious than usual. Upstairs there is dancing to loud, pulsing music whose beat goes right along the floor and up your legs. No matter how great the noise, you can dance and sign—the blurring edge between what bodies say to each other as bodies and what they say to each other with words. I finally tear myself away near 4. But I am of the impression that some people will never leave, that the sun will rise and set before that intense, exuberant conversation will draw to a close.

FINDING THE CURE, FIGHTING THE CURE

How to reconcile this Deaf experience with the rest of the world? Should it be reconciled at all? M. J. Bienvenu has been one of the most vocal and articulate opponents of the language of disability. "I am Deaf," she says to me in Knoxville, drawing out the sign for "Deaf," the index finger moving from chin to ear, as though she is tracing a broad smile. "To see myself as Deaf is as much of a choice as it is for me to be a lesbian. I have identified with my culture, taken a public stand, made myself a figure within this community." Considerably gentler now than in her extremist heyday in the early 80's, she acknowledges that "for some deaf people, being deaf is a disability. Those who learn forced English while being denied sign emerge semilingual rather than bilingual, and they are disabled people. But for the rest of us, it is no more a disability than being Japanese would be."

This is tricky territory. If being deaf is not a disability, then deaf people should not be protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act. It should not be legally required (as it is) that interpreters be provided in hospitals and other public-service venues, that a relay operator be available on all telephone exchanges, that all televisions include the chip for caption access. It should not be necessary for the state to provide

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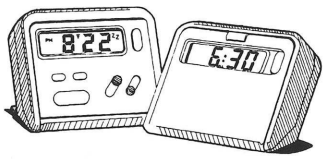

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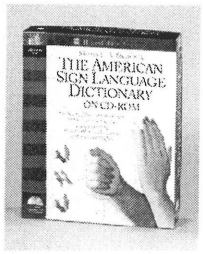

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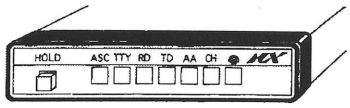

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for separate schools. Deaf people should not be eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (which they often claim). Those who say that being deaf is not a disability open themselves up to a lot of trouble.

Few words provoke a more passionate response in deaf people than "cochlear implant." Approved in 1985, cochlear implants are the closest thing to a "cure" for deafness. A tiny chip is surgically implanted in the inner ear and connected to a magnet just under the skin, which attracts another magnet in a transmitter attached behind the ear. A wire leads from that to a "speech processor" you can clip to your belt. The processor converts sound into electrical impulses and sends them to the implant, which conveys them to the brain, where they are processed as sound would be. The result is an approximation of hearing.

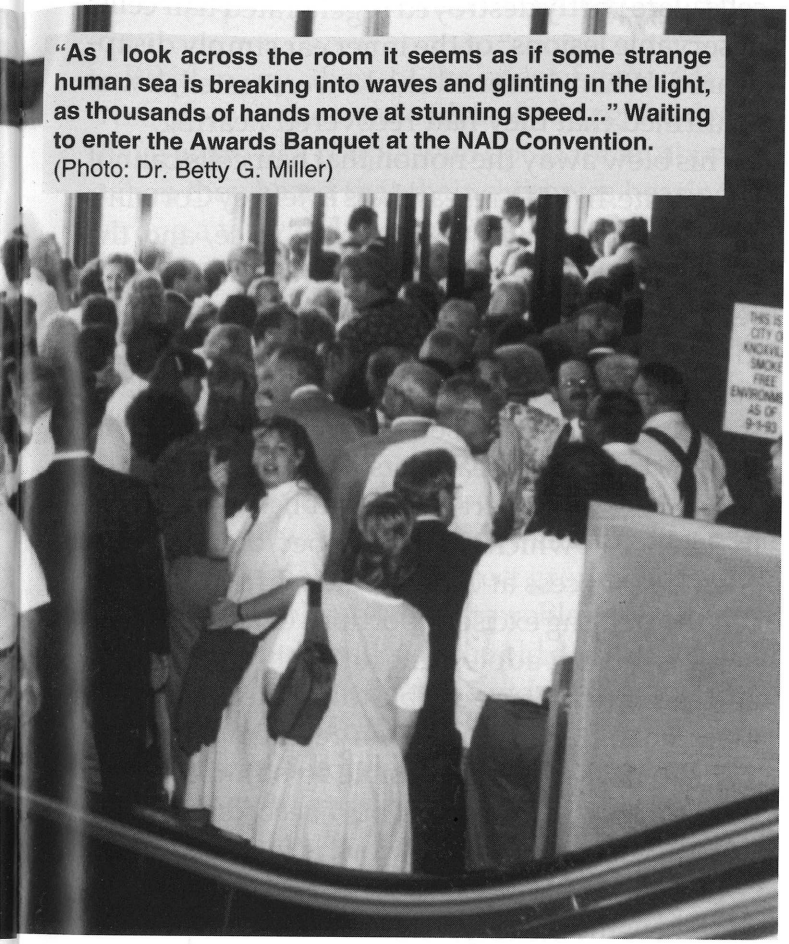
Supporters say implants allow people to overcome a terrible disability, giving those who would be marginalized access to normal life. Opponents complain, first, of the limitations of the implant itself: that it is dangerous, deforming and ineffectual; that it makes people un-deaf without making them hearing. They object also to the very idea of trying to cure the deaf. Paddy Ladd, a British Deaf scholar, calls implants "The Final Solution." The problem is worsened by the fact that the implants are most effective when put in children at about age 2. ("Like the Nazis," says M. J., "they seem to enjoy experimenting on little children.")

Decisions about implanting are therefore usually made by parents, most often by hearing parents (though **Hearing Health** magazine published an anecdote of a 90-year-old deaf mother who tried to browbeat her 70-year-old son into getting implants). This feeds into an ongoing debate about who the "parents" of deaf children are—their biological progenitors or the Deaf community.

Cochlear implants are not very dangerous. Surgical complications are unusual, though several surgeons scoffed at the Cochlear Corporation's assertion that the surgery is "comparable to a tonsillectomy"; some people have suffered disfiguring facial paralysis that appears to be connected to the surgery. The implant has been around for only about 30 years, but so far they have not caused the complications that have resulted from other placements of foreign material in the body. (Deaf activists talk about the horrors of silicone implants and pacemakers.) The implant interferes with certain diagnostic tests (magnetic resonance imaging, etc.), but the electronic stimulation the implant creates appears to have a positive effect on the nerve tissue that surrounds it. Having a wire coming out your neck can make you look like an extra from a bad ***Star Trek*** episode, but it is possible to grow hair so the wire is hidden. Much National Association of the Deaf propaganda about the danger of implants is alarmist; some of it is positively inaccurate.

The question of the effectiveness of the implants

RARER AND RARER.



"As I look across the room it seems as if some strange human sea is breaking into waves and glinting in the light, as thousands of hands move at stunning speed..." Waiting to enter the Awards Banquet at the NAD Convention.
(Photo: Dr. Betty G. Miller)

is more complicated. Cochlear implants are sometimes very effective, often somewhat effective and sometimes practically useless. A late-deafened adult who "regained" his hearing with an implant said it made everyone sound like R2D2 with laryngitis. For late-deafened people, however, implants can be a godsend; the approximation of sound they provide is sufficient for people already functional in spoken language to understand much of what they hear. Lord Ashley, the Member of Parliament who has been one of Britain's most inspired campaigners for civil rights, was deafened 20 years ago and now has implants; he spoke on the phone with apparent ease, and said that he has no trouble speaking to people he knows, one on one, though he might have difficulty with a new voice or with a busy conversation.

Prelingual deaf adults who have the implants often find them ineffective or just irritating; whether this is because they are unaccustomed to interpreting sound and would find that difficult even if they were given perfect hearing is unclear. For small children, there have been mixed results. The FDA failed to set language acquisition as one of the criteria for approval. Almost all children with implants have some "useful" perception of sound, but the sound they receive is often too garbled for them to interpret it as language, and so some fall into that frightening category of the cognitively retarded who develop no real language. The Cochlear Corporation can provide the statistics to show that many implanted children learn more and better oral language, but "more and better" is not really enough, especially if this is to be your sole mode of communication forever.

The problem—in practical terms—is that parents too often want to believe that the implants make their children hearing, which they do not do. Implants are not a cure; to treat them as a cure is a dire mistake. The children who receive them are often not given any special Deaf education. Dr. Robert Ruben, an ear-nose-and-throat specialist at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx, said: "If I had a deaf child, I would implant one ear, leaving the other free in case cures develop that require an intact inner ear. I would bring up that child bilingually. Parents could phase out sign later on if they wanted, but it should not be abandoned until it becomes clear that the child can develop satisfactory oral language. The worst mistake is for parents to neglect the one most important thing—that language of any kind, no matter what kind, must somehow be got into the child soon enough." There are also miracle stories of children for whom the implant has been peerless, but they are unusual and unpredictable.

The implant destroys all residual hearing a child might have. Though accurate hearing tests can be done on infants, it is impossible to determine how well those children might use their residual hearing. Anyone with a hearing loss over 90 decibels is classified as "profoundly deaf." I met people

with a 50-decibel hearing loss who could understand me only with interpretation or lip reading; Jackie Roth is categorized as "profoundly deaf," but I could talk to her as I would to a hearing person. "I don't know," she says to me. "I just get a lot when people speak to me." Hearing loss is measured as an average of loss in various registers, so someone with a 100-decibel loss could have good perception for very high frequency sound—and most sounds operate at many frequencies. Further, detection of sound and discrimination of sound are two separate abilities. Some people can discriminate sound well beyond their ability to detect it. So deciding which children are so deaf that they need implants is not easy, because by the time you can detect discriminatory abilities, it too late for the implants to be the basis of primary language acquisition.

Cochlear implants remind me, more than anything else, of sex-change surgery. Are transsexuals really members of their chosen sex? Well, they look like that other sex, take on the roles of that other sex and so on, but they do not have all those internal workings of the other sex, and cannot create children in the organic fashion of members of the chosen sex. Cochlear implants do not allow you to hear, but rather to do something that looks like hearing. They give you a process that is (sometimes) rich in information and (usually) free of music. They make the hearing world easier, but they do not give you hearing. What they give you has value, so long as you know in advance what that is.

While the implant debate rages, doctors are searching for more sophisticated and effective cures for the deaf. There are many kinds of deafness, but most come from the loss of the auditory hair cells in the cochlea. These cells, which receive sound in a form in which it can be conveyed along nerve pathways to the brain, are produced in the first three months of the embryonic period and then incapable of regenerating. Once you lose them, conventional wisdom has always had it, they're gone. In the early 1980's, Jeffrey Corwin, working with sharks in Hawaii, noticed that adult sharks have larger ears than baby sharks—larger in their number of hair cells. This indicated that it is possible for hair cells to be produced by vertebrates in a postfetal state; and subsequent research demonstrated that fish can produce hair cells throughout life, even to replace hair cells that have been lost. A few years later, Douglas Cotanche discovered that baby chicks whose hair cells were partly destroyed regenerated hair cells; observable lesions° of the inner ear simply disappeared. When deafened chicks were tested, it was confirmed that they had recovered hearing.

This blew away the notion that hair cells cannot regenerate. In 1992, researchers in Jeffrey Corwin's lab fed retinoic acid to pregnant mice, and the result was that the mice were born with extra hair cells. Building on this, a few scientists began work to see what effect retinoic acid might have on the inner ear of mammals past the usual prenatal stage for developing sensory cells, and in April 1993, a team of researchers working under the supervision of Robert Ruben published an article in **Science** in which they described their unprecedented° success at causing the regrowth of hair cells by treating excised° portions of the damaged inner ear of an adolescent rat with retinoic acid and calf serum. It is possible to kill the hair cells of mammals after birth and then get them to regrow.

It has not yet been possible to stimulate° this growth in a live animal, but, according to Dr. Ruben, successful *in vivo* work is just around the corner. "I would hope to see trials in humans by the end of the century," he said. If it were possible to cause regrowth of cochlear hair cells in human beings, almost all deafness could be treated. Since most deafness is degenerative (those born deaf have lost the cells *in utero*; almost no fetus exists that doesn't develop the cells at some stage), the question would be whether the new hair cells would remain alive in the inner ear, or whether they would die off again as their predecessor cells had done. There can be no question, however, that if hair regeneration were possible, there would be treatments for many deaf people. "From the time God made earth until today, this is probably the best time to be Deaf," Greg Hlibok said; and yet this is also the moment when the Deaf population is dwindling as it has never done before. Even now, deafness is defined as a "low-incidence disability"; there are 20 million deaf or hard-of-hearing people in the United States, but the profoundly deaf population is only about 2 million. Even without cutting-edge research, the

control of childhood diseases is shrinking that population. As it gets better and better to be deaf, it also gets rarer and rarer.

MAKING THE IRREGULAR REGULAR

What to say, then, of the cries of genocide, the resistance to the whole idea of curing the deaf? I have heard of a couple who opted for an abortion when they heard that their child was hearing, so strong a view did they hold on the superiority of Deaf ways. But I also met many Deaf individuals who objected to the way that the Deaf leadership (focused around the National Association of the Deaf) has presumed to speak for all the deaf people of America. There were plenty who said that being deaf is of course a disability, and that anything you could do about it would be welcome. They were righteously indignant at the thought of a politically correct group suggesting that their problems weren't problems. I also met people who subscribed to the old deaf self-hatred, who were ashamed and saddened when they gave birth to deaf children, who felt that they had always been second-class people and that they could never be anything more if they were deaf. Their unhappy voices cannot be forgotten; in some ways, it doesn't matter whether M. J. Bienvenu "cures" them of their ignorance or Dr. Ruben "cures" their ears, but they are out there is numbers and need help from someone.

Most hearing people respond to cries of genocide with an arrogant shrug. Of course if you can help deaf people you should help them. Give them hearing. Let them escape from their prison of silence. The triumph at Lexington this year coincided with the Stonewall 25th anniversary celebrations in New York, and one could not help being struck by the parallels. Here were thousands of people converging on New York to celebrate an identity that, 25 years ago, was described not as an identity, but as an illness. Unlike other minority groups, gay men and women are members of a culture that does not include their parents; most are born to parents who would have liked them to be born otherwise. In a procreative° society, their condition has been described as a handicap. Twenty-five years ago, before the principle of gay rights had been broadly articulated, few people questioned that it was right and fit to try to cure homosexuality—a terrible misfortune despite which (rather than because of which) some people managed to function at a high level.

Lewis Merkin is an actor and playwright, co-author of a remarkably moving play, ***Language of Love***, which he New York Deaf Theatre will open here [next Spring]. It is "the personal odyssey of a Deaf gay man." Born to grass-roots deaf parents in Philadelphia, with very good residual hearing, he grew up between the Deaf and hearing communities. "I could fit in almost well enough in the hearing community, almost well enough to pass," he said. "When I was about 18, I had to sort of come out of he closet as a Deaf person. I had to admit how much I couldn't hear, and to recognize that I would always speak with an 'accent.' I stopped going to parties and pretending I could follow everything going on. I stopped struggling against something I would never be able to change." Within a few years, Merkin had grown fully into a Deaf identity, and he became an actor, appearing in the role of Orin in ***Children of a Lesser God*** on Broadway.

He describes the parallel journeys of gay and Deaf identity. "When I was growing up, I looked around at these grass-roots deaf people, who were marginal, unimportant, not part of society, completely dependent on others, with no education, people who saw themselves as second-rate. And I recoiled.° I thought, that's not me, and I felt sick at the thought that I was deaf. It took a long time for me to understand what it meant to be Deaf, what a world was open to me. When I first began to think about being gay, I saw limp-wristed drag queens and guys in leather hanging out on street corners, and again I thought, that's not me, and I hated the idea of being gay. And it was only with time that I came into a real gay identity."

The Deaf community is riddled with prejudice; deaf people tend to be conservative, and can be very intolerant of minorities or of other handicaps. Deaf parents are no happier about gay offspring than are hearing parents—though, interestingly, the incidence of gayness within the Deaf community is perhaps 15 percent higher than in the hearing world. There is a kinship between the groups. It has been suggested that as many as 90 percent of hearing-Deaf marriages end in divorce,

Deaf people have formed inviolable BONDS OF
that are rare in hearing culture. It is impossible, when among them,

but the majority of successful Deaf-gay relationships appear to be between Deaf and hearing individuals. "What we have experienced is so similar," M. J. told me. "If you are deaf, you know almost exactly what it is like to be gay, and vice versa."

Some opponents of the implants have demanded that young children not be implanted, and have proposed that people choose when they are 18 whether to have the implants or not. But if you are 18 and asked to make a choice, you are choosing not simply between being deaf and being hearing, but between the culture you have known and the culture you have never known. By then it is too late; your experience of the world has been defined by being Deaf, and to give it up is to reject who you have become. It lacks dignity: it is an admission of inadequacy, a discarding of your self.

It's hard to have children who are different from you. If gayness could be detected in infancy and easily "corrected," then many parents would happily pay through the ears for the surgery. "In a world full of childhood cures," said Rob Roth, "I would be neither Deaf nor gay. That doesn't make me feel bad about myself, but I know it's true." Many gay men and lesbians would have been glad, at 8 or 10 or 12 or 14, to become "normal," even if, a few years later, they had grown into selves defined by the experience of gayness. Most Deaf children of hearing parents have had periods of rejecting their Deaf identity. Twenty-five years ago, the arguments for curing gayness seemed as inarguable as the arguments for curing the Deaf seem to be now. When and how did the shift from the pathological to the cultural few of gayness take place? How did we get from hormone injections and electroshock to gay soldiers and domestic partnership?

It is tempting, in the end, to say there is no such thing as a disability. Equally, one might admit that almost everything is a disability. There are as many arguments for correcting everything as there are for correcting nothing. Perhaps it would be most accurate to say that "disability" and "culture" are really matters of degree. Being Deaf is a disability and a culture in modern America; so is being gay; so is being black; so is being female; so even, increasingly. is being a straight white male. So is being paraplegic, or having Down syndrome. What is at issue is which things are so "cultural" you wouldn't think of "curing" them, and which things are so "disabling" that you must "cure" them—and the reality is that for some people each of these experiences is primarily a disability experience while for others it is primarily a cultural one. Some blacks are handicapped by blackness; some who are gay are handicapped by gayness; some paraplegics thrive on the care they receive and would be lost if their mobility were returned. Some deaf people are better off deaf and some would be better off hearing. Some could perhaps be both: "I would never want to move away from my Deaf identity," Jackie Roth said. "But if I could have full hearing, without complications, I would like to have it."

There is something eerie and sinister about the image of a world sanitized of irregularity; there is a terrifying point when good works become fascistic control. If therapists who set out to "cure" gayness had succeeded, and succeeded fast, there would probably never had been a gay civil-rights movement, and we would have lost all the singular contributions to the mainstream that an acknowledged gay culture has provided. The National Association of the Deaf convention demonstrates amply that the Deaf have as much of a culture as anyone. There is a race going on. Running on one team are the doctors who will make the deaf hear. They are humanitarian miracle workers, and they are bringing something very valuable to the many nonhearing individuals who would like to know sound and to speak. On the other team are exponents of Deaf culture. They are visionary idealists who are trying to preserve a remarkable and seductive community.

If Deaf culture can be made as visible, important

and proud as gay culture now is before the cure is perfected, then perhaps the accomplishments of the rubella-bulge activists will allow for a long history of Deaf culture. Perhaps, like the search for a cure to gayness, the search for a cure for the deaf will be dropped by respectable institutions—which would be both a bad and a good thing. If the cure comes before the search for it is obviated,° then virtually all hearing parents and many grass-roots deaf parents will cure their children, and the tremendous accomplishments that have followed the Gallaudet uprising will be the conclusion rather than the beginning of a story. Then the history recounted in this article will be as poignant° and remote as a tale of Babylon. This, too, would be both a bad and a good thing. As genetic engineering progresses, we may be able to cure everything, and how we decide which good and which bad we prefer will be increasingly important. "Our situation also bears on yours, on the whole world's," M. J. Bienvenu said, her signs almost mockingly urgent. I think she is right. This race may be a good indicator for how we value difference altogether.■

NOTES & WORDS

(All notes and photocaptions are **DEAF LIFE's** editorial additions.)

mendicants: persons who depend on handouts or "donations"; beggars.
*Barwiolek is a co-founder of NYDT.
exuberant: high-spirited; joyous; passionate.
lesions: a patch of diseased tissue; eruptions; sores.
unprecedented: something never done before; remarkable; unusual.
excised: cut out; surgically removed.
stimulate: encourage; spur; rouse.
procreative: emphasizing the "normality" of having children.
recoiled: shrank back; reacted in horror or dismay.
obviated: effectively prevented; rendered unnecessary.
poignant: touching.

Deaf Life By Andrew Solomon
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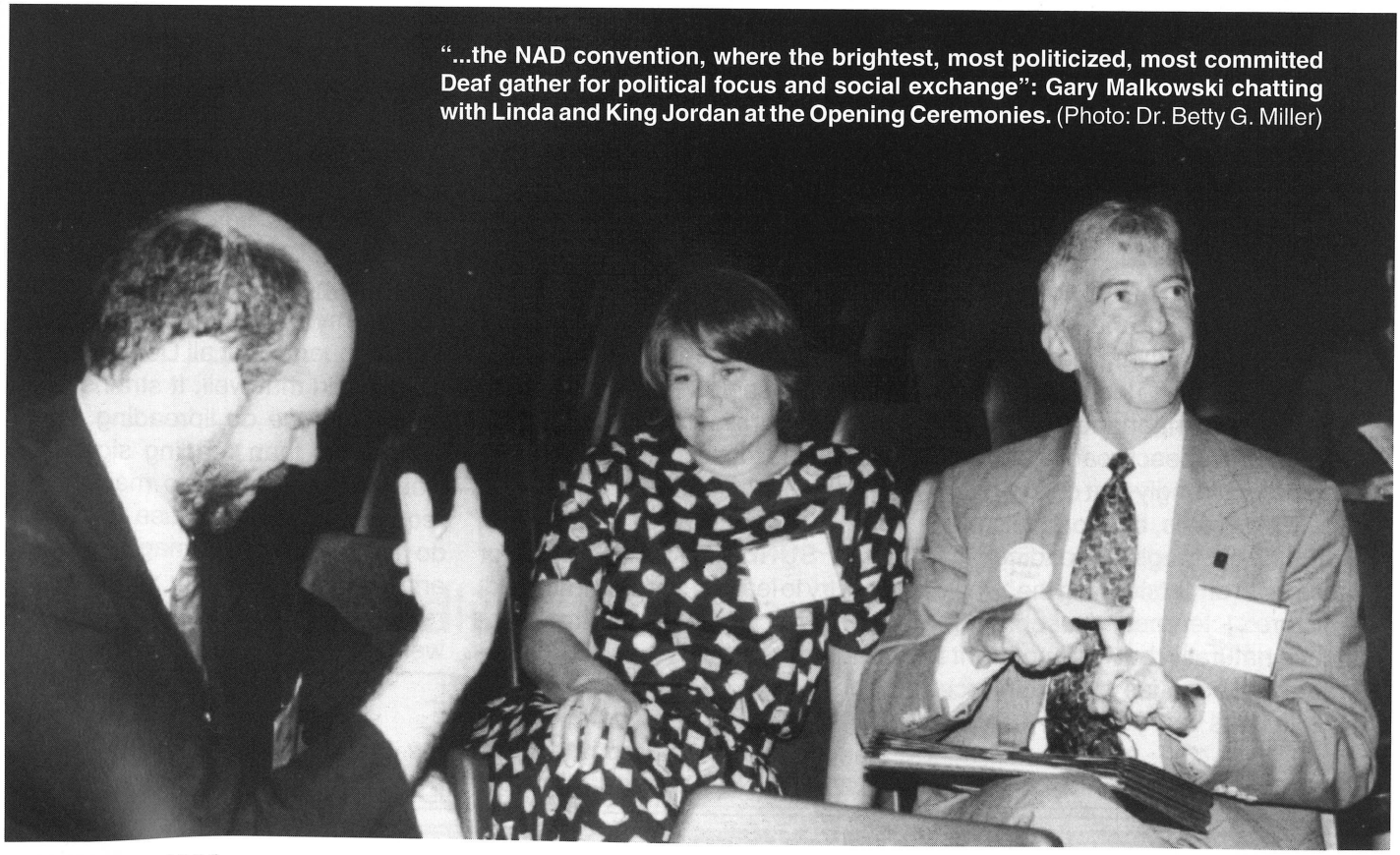

"...the NAD convention, where the brightest, most politicized, most committed Deaf gather for political focus and social exchange": Gary Malkowski chatting with Linda and King Jordan at the Opening Ceremonies. (Photo: Dr. Betty G. Miller)

READERS' RESPONSES

Should lipreading be a required course in all schools for the deaf?

74% Yes 24% No 2% Not sure

NO—Teaching lipreading, in any location, at any stage of growing up or maturity is questionable, and much so. I may be prejudiced since I passes just a so-so skill. Why pay for something we receive for free many times daily? I say FREE because we are not paying for encounters with the un-trained public. The overly exaggerated lip movements are not what we need to endure in public encounters where either there is only an upper-lip or a lower-lip movement, or most nothing at all, just a mumble.
As I see it, lipreading skills are in proportion to an individual's natural endowments. One person's opinion, prejudicial or otherwise.

YES—As a Oral Deaf adult myself, I rely totally on speechreading. I grew up orally with hearing aids; however, I can no longer wear them. Hence, the importance of my very important speechreading skills. I feel very strongly that children in all deaf programs, both oral and sign, should be taught lipreading. It is crucial to understanding the "whole" picture. I learned speechreading quite naturally, but it is important to note that because it was reinforced while I was very young (1-1/2 years old).
During my school years, speechreading became a very vital part of my ability to communicate. Hearing aids were extremely important, but without speechreading, a child cannot simply just hear all sounds just because they wear an aid. Wearing an aid does not mean a child can "hear" in the same way a hearing person can, therefore, I am very supportive of speechreading/lipreading being incorporated into the classroom.

NO—If the deaf people are to get anywhere as a legitimate minority culture, we have to stop allowing hearing people to dictate what's "normal" and what's not. Speech-training classes only serve to keep oralism alive and only encourage hearing parents to subscribe to the myth that deaf people can only "make it" if they act and sound like hearing people. The only way to break the oralism stranglehold is to start at the top: schools for the deaf or "deaf institutes"!

NOT SURE—Because good for deaf try to learn to speak and lipread, but not force become frustrated lipreading very hard.

YES—Because it helps to understand (if taught appropriately and positively) the hearing individuals whom we make daily contacts with and to understand what is being "visibly said." Not all hearing individuals know sign language, especially since there are all modes of sign language, nor are the hearing individuals "educated" in treating deaf or hard of hearing as an individual themselves. There are a lot of advantages to being able to lipread—especially when we're not supposed to know what's being said in [a] given situation.

NO—It should not be a REQUIRED course, it should be optional for all deaf people who wants to learn and practice. I, myself, am profoundly deaf who uses lipreading often—but I use ASL everyday. When I am with hearing folks, I do lipread and do use my lip to form words with sign language. Not all Deaf people can lipread that well. It strains our eyes when we do lipreading. It is more work than reading signs. It would be a mistake to make it a required course because it could do many deaf kids damage by lowering their self-esteem when they realize that they can't read lips that well.

Readers have asked us how many "Faxview" responses we get every month.
This month's total: 305

Deaf Life

READERS' VIEWPOINT

FAXVIEW

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Do you believe that "sign language puts more limits to your dreams"?

❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not sure

(Deaf readers' responses only, please!)

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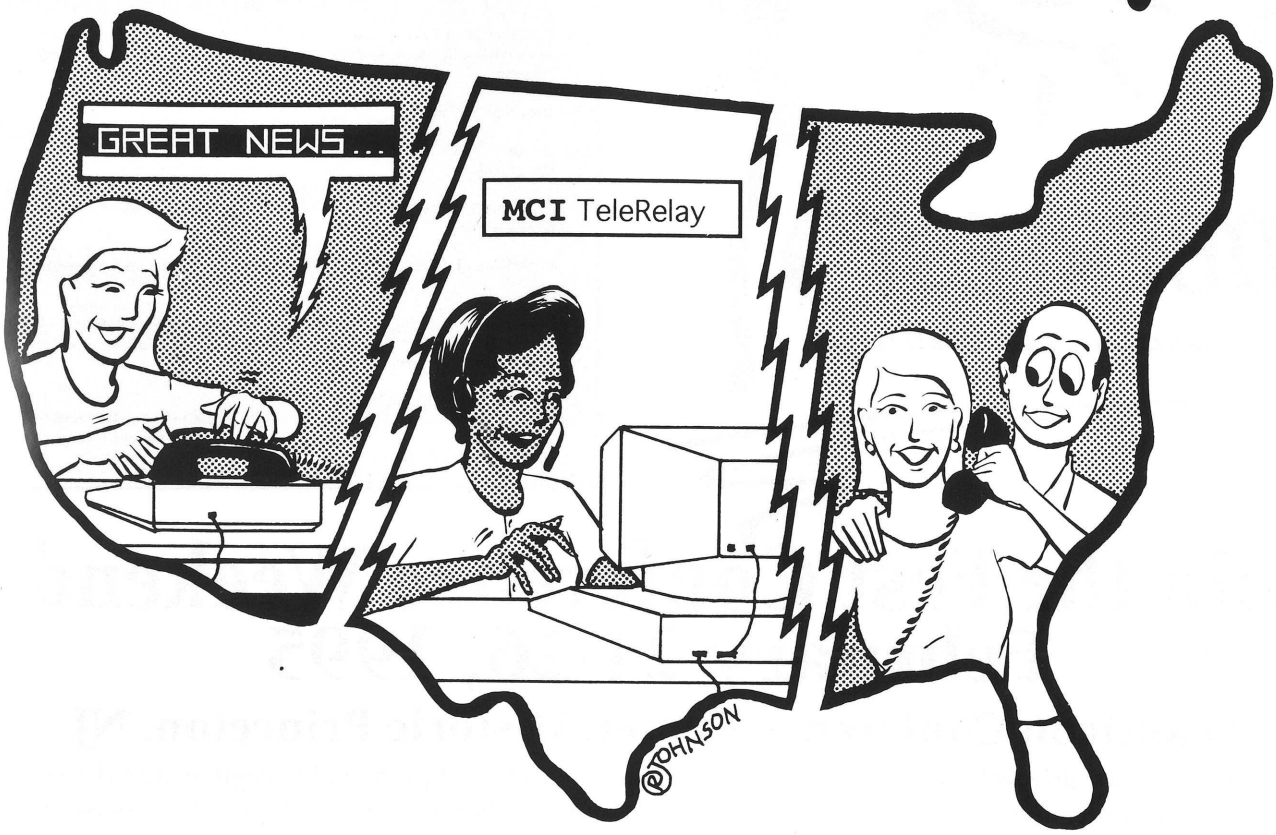

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Dr. Harlan Lane - Hearing Versus Deaf Perceptions of Deaf People: Two Viewpoints

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B. **Domestic Violence**

C. **The Laws and You: Deaf, Drug & Alcohol**

D. **Domestic Violence for Deaf Survivors**

E. **Prevention of AIDS/HIV**

F. **Building Bridges: A Unique Approach for Training Facilities Facing Nonexistent Substance Abuse Services**

G. **Co-Dependency in the Deaf Community**

H. **Nicotine & Addiction to Tobacco**

I. **Working as a Community Leader with Substance Abuse**

J. **Sober and Creative Living**

K. **Sexuality: Sexual Identity and Intimacy Issues**

L. **Relapse: What Is It? And How to Prevent It**

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Open Dialogue

N. **What's the Track Record for the Deaf Consumer-Interpreter-Services Relations?**

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• RELEASES • ANNOUNCEMENTS • UPCOMING EVENTS • LATE-BREAKING NEWS •

JANUARY 1995

Deaf Life Plus

HEART TROUBLE

A deaf patient in Texas sues two heart centers for not providing an interpreter

By **Nancy Donisi**
Staff Writer, **Plano Star Courier***

September 7: There's no doubt that living with a disability presents obstacles in one's life. But a recent patient at the HCA Medical Center of Plano says his deafness may have put him in a life-threatening situation.

According to a lawsuit filed [in early September] in a Collin County Court of Law, Hector Lopez claims he was refused an interpreter when he entered the hospital complaining of chest pains. "(Lopez) suffered from unlawful discrimination by (HCA's) refusal to provide auxiliary aids and services, for example, a qualified interpreter for (Lopez) who is deaf," the lawsuit states. "The (Americans with Disabilities Act) requires such accommodations and accessibility."

The lawsuit contends that the Plano hospital violated the ADA, made law by Congress to help ensure the rights of disabled people, and asks for a policy change "to modify and make its services and facilities readily available to, and usable by, persons with disabilities."

Shirley Ann Snyder, attorney for Lopez, said her client visited HCA, which is near his place of work, on January 6, when he immediately requested an interpreter, and then again when the physician began to examine him. Both requests were denied, according to the lawsuit, although Lopez was required to spend the night in the hospital. Again he asked for an interpreter the next morning, and being refused a third time, Lopez checked out of HCA "because of this lack of communication. HCA's repeated refusal to provide an interpreter to communicate with (Lopez) prevented (him) from knowing or understanding the condition of his health, the tests and treatment being provided, and the purpose for tests and treatment."

Snyder, a lawyer for Advocacy Inc., a nonprofit group which has filed more than 100 lawsuits concerning ADA violations in Texas during the past year, said deaf people learn to communicate either by reading lips or using sign language. Lopez had never learned to read lips, she said, adding that the hospital offered only a "finger speller," someone who can sign the alphabet alone. "It's like if you were talking letter by letter," Snyder said. "Not only would that take a long time, but it would be especially difficult with all the medical terms."

The lawsuit was filed as a class-action suit, which would provide the same restitution, if any, awarded to Lopez to "those similarly situated."

Sarah Thomas, spokeswoman for HCA, said although she could not comment on the specifics of a pending lawsuit, she

■ CaptionWatch 27
■ Classifieds.....30
■ The Caption Report 31

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"can say with confidence" she does not believe the hospital violated the federal act. "We do meet ADA guidelines for not only patients, but also family members and visitors," she said.

A trial date has not been set in the court of Judge John O'Keefe Barry.

September 9: Hector Lopez still ails from an alleged lack of medical treatment for his heart condition more than eight months ago [i.e., January 1994]. Although he was not denied follow-up surgery to his triple bypass, Lopez said he refused the operation because he was denied something more valuable to him—an interpreter.

Born deaf 32 years ago, the former Frito-Lay employee recently filed lawsuits against two Plano medical facilities, claiming violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The first, filed in a Collin County court in late July and subsequently moved to the federal court in Sherman, made complaints against the Texas Regional Heart Center. The second suit was filed [in early September] in a Collin County court-at-law against HCA Medical Center of Plano.

Answering written questions with limited vocal ability through the help of a hearing aid, Lopez explained his reasons for the lawsuits. He said his doctor at the heart center withdrew professional services to him because it was too difficult to communicate with a deaf man, and refused to hire an interpreter. "It hurt me a lot when they said I cause problems," Lopez said with tears in his eyes. "An interpreter would explain what the doctor means. It's more clear—100 percent.

But the Texas Regional Heart Center's attorney, John Koepke, said the reason Lopez was refused further services by the center was because he was "non-compliant." Said Koepke: "He was not following the doctor's direction and advice. They communicated effectively. He was given written handouts and there's writing on the bottle from the pharmacy . . . he can read."

Koepke said Lopez had been treated by the center several times without an interpreter through written conversation, but then began requesting his friend to be hired as his interpreter. "If you're going to have an interpreter, you need one well versed in medical terminology, not his friend as he was asking. Each patient may have certain needs, but you have to meet a reasonable accommodation."

Although the Texas Regional Heart Center has never had complaints of other ADA violations and has never been investigated by the Department of Health and Human Services, Koepke said the violation issue is still valid. "It is an important public-policy issue, but it just depends on each person," he said. "With each situation, you do what is best under the circumstances and, in this case, that's what was done."

But Lopez said the center lacks the education of how to deal with the special needs of hearing-impaired patients. "How can the doctor know what (the patients need)? With the sign language, you can be more specific. I could ask A to Z what is wrong with me. I could ask how to get myself in better condition."

Representatives at HCA-Plano would not comment on the pending litigation, only to say the hospital is in compliance with the ADA regulations.

And the Office for Civil Rights agreed. The subgroup of the Department of Health and Human Services stated in a September 1993 letter to Allyn Harris, chief executive officer of HCA-Plano, that the hospital complied with all requirements relating to hearing-impaired patients. "The staff stated that they were aware of the hospital's policy on communicating with heating-impaired persons," the letter states. "They also stated that they knew the procedures to follow in obtaining the services of a sign-language interpreter for hearing-impaired persons who present themselves at the hospital."

According to the most recent (September 1993) list of language interpreters available for translation at HCA-Plano, six interpreters were able to communicate through sign language.

A new policy was created in January outlining the procedures for accommodating hearing-impaired patients at HCA and became effective in June, giving step-by-step instructions on how to obtain and document the use of an interpreter. But that policy was not instated until five months after Lopez had his visit to the emergency room.

"They know they should offer interpreters. Their policy says they should," Lopez said. "But they didn't offer it. It would have been easier for both (the patient and the doctor)."

* These articles (titled "Patient sues HCA/Hospital's lack of interpreter for deaf man cited as disabilities law violation" and "Perception of injustice motivates deaf plaintiff"), originally appeared (in a slightly different form) in the September 7 and 9 editions of the **Plano Star Courier**, and are reprinted with permission. Copyright © 1994, **Plano Star Courier**. All rights reserved.

Old pain, new anger

This is a free adaptation of Hector Ivan Lopez's written statement.—Editors

On December 31, 1992, I moved from San Francisco to Dallas to start a new life. I had already (in February 1990) had triple-bypass surgery, which made me, at age 29, the youngest such patient in the Bay Area.

From December 1992 to May 1993, I had been looking for a job, but didn't have the opportunity to see a doctor for a checkup or medication. I finally found work at Frito-Lay. As a part-time employee, I didn't get health-care insurance from May to December 1993. On December 6, 1993, I was advanced to full-time status. But after I ran out of medicine during the summer, I was bothered by persistent chest pain.

My condition got worse, as did the pain. On January 4, 1994, I experienced irregular heartbeat, dizziness, and weakness, but remained calm and rested until next morning. Although I went to work on January 5th, I felt compelled to

go to the emergency room of a nearby hospital in Plano (HCA Medical Center). My supervisor urged me to see a doctor.

After I arrived at the emergency room, I went to the center station and tried to tell the nurse about the pain in my chest, but the communication between us wasn't clear. I had to resort to writing. She led me to a room and told me to lie down and wait for the doctor. Suddenly three nurses arrived to perform various duties around me without explaining what they were doing. It made me feel nervous, panicky, and scared. I told one of the nurses that I needed an interpreter. She said "Okay," and went to get another nurse who happened to know fingerspelling. I was disappointed and told the other nurse that I wanted a certified interpreter. She replied that the emergency wouldn't allow it. The "fingerspelling" nurse asked me if I had the interpreter's phone number so she could call for me. But the other nurse refused to take it since it was against emergency policy. I was really upset because he whole situation looked pretty serious, and I wanted to know what was going on with them and their conversations. The fingerspelling nurse was sympathetic. When the other nurse started to ask me for details of my medical history, the doctor arrived and talked with me. Since I couldn't read his lips, it caused quite a stir in my emotions! Communications with the doctor and the other nurse were poor and the whole business was needlessly dragged out to 3 hours.

The nurse from the center station came in and informed me that she had a room for me. I was puzzled to learn that I had to stay overnight. She transferred me from the emergency room to a room on the third floor. She explained that the doctor would be in pretty soon, along with another nurse, for more tests. The doctor came in and was expecting to tell me what the tests results showed, but I had to tell him to write it down so I could understand. Another emotional setback. This went on for a while, until the nurse finished checking on me. That was all for the night.

The next morning, I woke up to see her checking on me again. She told me that a nurse from Cardiac Catheterization Rehab would be coming soon to speak with me, explaining my heart condition and the results of the emergency-room tests. Again, I requested an interpreter, as I needed access to vitally important information. She said that it was impossible. I had to be tolerant since, in my condition, I couldn't afford to put more stress on my heart and risk more damage.

The Rehab nurse finally arrived and tried to talk to me about the results, but I told her to write it down. She explained that I needed to undergo surgery again. I was surprised, as the doctor and previous nurses hadn't said anything about that—or hadn't explained clearly. I told her that I would not agree to the surgery since my communication with the doctor and nurses were not clear, and I didn't understand what was going on. I told her to tell the center-station nurse to get an interpreter so I could understand better WHY I needed this surgery. Without understanding the whole thing, it was impossible for me to go along with it.

The center-station nurse told me that the hospital would not provide an interpreter, but would get the fingerspelling nurse. I said, "Okay, and I want to go home!" The nurse panicked and begged me to stay until she got the doctor. A few hours later two doctors came by, explained that my heart condition was bad, and tried to convince me to stay longer. I still couldn't understand them. They gave up and left. Later, another doctor came back with four different medications and explained what each pill worked for and how often to take them. Important directions, yes, but I missed most of them. After that, I got dressed and left with the old pain in my chest—and new anger. I *was* angry.

One week later, on January 14, I had an appointment with my doctor for a further checkup. Dr. "R." practices diagnostic and interventional cardiovascular medicine at Texas Regional Heart Center. I asked his nurse to get an interpreter—I'd already given her the name and phone number of one. Before I stopped by the office, I went to the hospital to ask the information-desk receptionist for a "responsible" person in the business-administration department. Thus confronted, she called the nurse who knew fingerspelling and asked her to come down to speak with me. I felt insulted, but I was patient. When that nurse showed up, I told her I would like to meet whoever was in charge of interpreter services. She asked me to wait and went up to the administrative offices to find out. It was a pretty long wait before she came back to tell me that the hospital refused to pay for an interpreter. I was shocked and left for my doctor's appointment.

At Dr. R.'s office, I expected to see the interpreter there, but when I entered I found out that there was no interpreter, so I walked up to the front desk and asked the nurse if she had taken action on my request. She replied evasively (as if she wanted to avoid discussing the subject) and said she couldn't get one. That made me feel worse, but I had to bear with it. I asked Dr. R. to get an interpreter for my next visit. He just nodded without saying a word.

Afterwards, I could feel that the pain in my chest was getting worse. A few days later I called Dr. R.'s office to inform him that the pain was increasing and most of the medications weren't helping. The nurse told me she would call me back when she finished speaking with Dr. R. about my condition. So later that day she called me and said that Dr. R. wanted me to take a week off from work and rest in bed. Also, he wanted me to stop by next day for a checkup. I told the nurse that I *had* to have an interpreter there so I'd know what Dr. R. was telling me. She said okay. Next day, at Dr. R.'s office, there was no interpreter!

I kept thinking, *Damn it!* I tried to carry on as best I could with Dr. R., discussing my condition and the effectiveness of the prescribed medicines. I even told him that if I had an interpreter with me, the condition of my heart would improve. The pain was still there and some of the medicines were causing bad side effects. Dr. R. said that there was a problem with one side of my heart and that I needed to undergo surgery to improve it. He told me to get rid of the old medications and that he'd prescribe new ones. I started to get "mixed feelings" about what was going on with the tests they took back in the emergency room at HCA Medical Center and all

these communications with nurses and doctors. I left the office in anger.

I gave copies of the ADA regulations and rules to the receptionist at HCA Medical Center to be given to the administrative head. Two days later she called me at home. She said that the hospital would not provide and interpreter and if I wanted one, I'd have to pay for it. I didn't argue with her; I accepted her statement as evidence of the hospital's policy.

I decided to file a lawsuit against HCA Medical Center in Plano and the Texas Regional Heart Center because they refused several times to provide an interpreter, who could have helped me deal with a serious health problem and have fully-accessible communication with the medical staff who were supposed to be explaining my condition to me, what my options were, and what I needed to do. The hospital refused to provide an interpreter. So did Dr. R. I did not have clear communication with the nurses or doctors, not even my own cardiac specialist. This business has caused me a great deal of frustration and anguish. After all, I was simply trying to get decent medical care for my condition and improve my health. We cannot have good care without good communication.

And the pain is still in my chest.■

♥+♥+♥+♥+♥+♥

Deaf Youth Dialogue, October 3-8, 1994. Cyne Johnson of Nova Scotia speaks with participants. (Photo: Destrubé, Victoria, B.C.)

One World, Many Cultures:
Deaf Youth Dialogue 1994 promoted sharing

At Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific (on the southern tip of Vancouver Island in British Columbia), 200 students between the ages of 17-20 come each year to enjoy the benefits of an internationally-recognized education in science, arts, humanities, and life. The students all take part in service activities including seafront, firefighting, land rescue, social service, and village service. In addition to their activities as part of a small community, they must follow a challenging curriculum. With over 60 nations represented, the students are chosen by their countries and offered scholarships to attend this 2-year college program. Spanish, English, French, Cantonese, Arabic, Hebrew, and many other languages are spoken on the beautiful wooded campus. Another language that is taught and used is American Sign Language.

In 1993-94, a group of 10 hearing students from all over the world started learning ASL once a week. With the help of local Deaf youth and adults, they were able to practice their skills and improve their ability to communicate in sign language. During the year, the hearing students began to question why there were no Deaf students in any of the Colleges. Since the Colleges were founded to promote international peace and understanding, why were only hearing students enrolled? Deaf and hearing students worked together to plan activities for the summer. Over the winter of 1993-94, Deaf and hearing youth and some Deaf adults formed a committee to plan a national conference, *Deaf Youth Dialogue '94*. Funding was approved and the project planning was in full force. When the school term ended, most hearing students hoped to join the *Deaf Youth Dialogue* in the summer, but due to financial problems, the summer program was cancelled.

Even though the summer program was not held, many students were still committed to having a *Dialogue*. Some hearing students worked with Deaf people in their home countries over the summer; others forgot a great deal and had to start again in September. The planning committee decided to have the *Dialogue* during the school year, with the rest of Pearson College, instead of cancelling it altogether. This September, **Jeff Paniuk**, Coordinator of the *Deaf Youth Dialogue '94*, taught the students ASL on a weekly basis and prepared them for the *Dialogue*.

"Dialogue" means to communicate back and forth between two or more people. The goal of this project was to allow communication to happen between Deaf and hearing youth from various cultures. The hearing youth needed more skills and knowledge to be able to work with Deaf youth for a week. After watching videos about Deaf Culture, taking classes with Deaf instructors, and being able to meet with Deaf youth, the hearing students were ready for the *Dialogue*.

Twelve Deaf students from high schools all across Canada came to Pearson College in October to participate in a unique multi-cultural adventure: the *Deaf Youth Dialogue*. They were chosen for their ability to represent Deaf culture, their leadership potential, and motivation to learn about different cultures. The Deaf students arrived and met the hearing students from many different countries. The first few days they learned from each other about their cultural backgrounds and personal histories, and before long, friendships were developing across cultures. The *Dialogue* was intended to provide support and opportunity for students who would not normally know each other to gain valuable knowledge and skills from the experience of communicating and learning

together. Most of the Deaf students who attended the project had never travelled outside of Canada, although one Deaf woman was from Israel. There was a lot for everyone to learn.

Pearson College students learned about Deaf culture and sign language, and Deaf students learned about international development and political issues. Hearing students learned about the controversies of cochlear implants and the Gallaudet "DPN" revolution, and Deaf students learned about racism and cultural minorities. One of the students in the Deaf project was a young man who had a cochlear implant and communicated by using speech. He talked with the other Deaf students about his experience and some of the local Deaf youth who used ASL and speech were able to help translate when other Deaf youth had difficulty communicating. It was important that everyone be able to participate and learn from each other.

While hearing students attended their regular classes, the Deaf students were taught by Deaf leaders on issues such as civil rights, leadership, and oppression, with an international focus. Among the Deaf instructors were **Shelly Carver**, President of the Canadian Association of the Deaf; **Joe McLaughlin**, Vice-Principal of the Jericho School for the Deaf; **Henry Vlug**, a Deaf lawyer; and **Roger Carver**, Director of the Deaf Children's Society. I myself, a former coordinator of the project who had moved to California, returned to teach a session on Deaf people in developing countries.

One of the most effective ways to teach the hearing students about the "deaf way" and the oppression experienced by many Deaf people was the *SILENT LUNCH*. The entire college ate together in a central cafeteria, and one day during the week there were Speech Police patrolling the cafeteria who ensured that no one was talking during the meal. Sign language was allowed and gestures were encouraged, but talking was punished by removing utensils and making the guilty party stand up on a chair to eat. Afterwards, a session was held to discuss communication, language, and the feelings of oppression.

Although many classes were held with only Deaf participants, there was ample time to interact with hearing students during recreational and educational sessions. Professional interpreters were used to ensure adequate communication, but often the hearing and Deaf students signed with each other independently. The Deaf students were also able to participate in a class with hearing students to talk about the "Theory of Knowledge" and communication issues. Deaf students worked together with hearing students to make a presentation about the importance of communicating and respecting each other's differences. The talent show on the second-last night demonstrated that both Deaf and hearing students had a great deal of talent to share.

On the last night, the Deaf students and representatives of the hearing students who had learned sign language had the opportunity to address the International Board that oversees all the United World Colleges. The Deaf students asked that Sign Language be considered for participation in every College. Hearing students joined the Deaf students in advocating this as a necessary step to promote equality of all people.

This project was organized by a committee of Deaf youth and adults and Pearson students with funding from Human Resource Development Canada. Due to the cancellation of an annual summer course in international development, the program was adapted to be held during the school year. In 1995, it is hoped that the program will continue to be run in the summer with the addition of Deaf students from other countries. We would like to invite Deaf people and schools from any country who would be interested in participating to contact the College. If there is funding available for travel from your community, we might be able to cover the expenses when in Canada.

Another major effort is being made to convince the Board of Directors to allow Deaf students to participate in each of the United World Colleges. This would be possible if more than one young Deaf person attends, as it will be very difficult for a Deaf youth to participate if they have no Deaf peers. With the financial support of donors and the government to pay for interpreters and other accommodation needs, it might be possible to design a program where Deaf students can attend Pearson College alongside hearing students. The experience will be challenging for both Deaf and hearing students but might, one day, be a reality.

For more information, please write to **Jerry Salvador**, Pearson College, RR #1, Victoria, B.C., Canada V9B 5T7.■

By **Tanis Doe**

About the author: Tanis Doe is currently Research Director at the World Institute on Disability in California, and formerly Coordinator of Deaf Youth Dialogue.

GALLY GOINGS-ON

Curtain call: On December 8, during the 9th Annual Olender Foundation Awards Ceremony at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, **Heather Whitestone**, Miss America 1995, accepted a $20,000 check on behalf of Gallaudet University from the Jack and Lovell Olender Foundation.

Gallaudet will use the money to support a Communication Laboratory to research and develop a multimedia platform for facilitating speech development in deaf children. Dr. **James J. Mahshie**, project director, will launch an innovative project through a PC computer system to support speech training for deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Initially, research will be conducted at the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School (on the Gallaudet campus), and then disseminated° to other schools and learning environments.

The Olender Foundation also presented its annual Peacemaker Award to consumer advocate **Ralph Nader**.

Background: The Olender Foundation's mission is to fight violence, poverty, and inequality and to promote education

and justice for all persons. It provides support to a broad spectrum of national and local Washington, D.C. organizations serving those ends. The Foundation also provides scholarships to outstanding, financially-needy students to attend college and to exceptional students at local law schools. It's headed by Washington malpractice lawyer **Jack Olender** and his wife **Lovell Olender**, an avid° ballet fan. Heather Whitestone won the Miss America talent contest with her outstanding ballet performance.

disseminated: spread; passed along.
avid: enthusiastic; loyal.

Three to be honored: Gallaudet University plans to award an Honorary Doctorate degree to Dr. **James J. Hicks, Ralph White**, and **Charlotte Coffield** during its 126th commencement exercises on May 12, 1995, at the Field House.

Dr. Hicks is Trustee Emeritus of the Gallaudet University Board of Trustees. He was a member of the Board since 1968 until his retirement this year. He is a surgeon in the field of otorhinolaryngology and a professor at the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham.

White is former superintendent of the Oklahoma School for the Deaf and former president of the Texas Association of the Deaf and the NAD.

Coffield, who recently retired from the Office of Deafness and Communication Disorders in the U.S. Department of Education, distinguished herself with 30 years of work in administering interpreter-training and rehabilitation grants benefiting deaf persons.

In addition, Gallaudet will grant a posthumous° Professor Emeritus award to Dr. **Martin Minter** of the Department of Physical Education and Recreation, who provided 28 years of outstanding service to Gallaudet. He died last May, at the age of 49.*

posthumous: given (as with an award or honor) after a person's death.

*See "In Memoriam: Dr. Martin Minter, Professor at Gallaudet University," June 1994 "News Briefs," pp. 18-19.

MUCH APPRECIATED

Last November, RISO, a company that manufactures and distributes digital printers and accessories, donated a RISO Publisher to the High Technology Center for Electronic Publishing and Imaging at NTID.* This PC/MAC-based document-processing system provides students with opportunities to gain hands-on experience with state-of-the-art technology. An energy- and cost-saving alternative to copiers, it offers high-speed printing, input scanning of graphic and text documents, and stand-alone copy/duplicating capabilities. It includes an editing board, document feeder, and three color-

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print cylinders. Upstate Graphics, a Rochester printing business and authorized RISO dealer, has donated a year of service and maintenance.

"RISO is pleased to play a part in the professional training programs for NTID students," said **John Carillon**, CEO and President of RISO Inc.

NTID's High Technology Center for Electronic Publishing and Imaging, which opened in October 1992, brings together in one area all the disciplines associated with NTID's printing, photo/media, and art departments. The facility was established to allow faculty members and students to keep pace with industry's changing technical needs. It represents a collaborative effort between academia and industry. Businesses throughout the country have donated a range of equipment currently used in computer and printing industries. In addition to the RISO Publisher, the center's workstations include document-production software, peripheral devices such as scanners and high-capacity storage units, medium- to high-resolution black-and-white and color printers, and high-speed production equipment.

**Just for the record, NTID's full name is the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and it's one of 8 colleges of Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.*

WHAT'S DOING IN HONOLULU

A bit of news from the Gallaudet University Regional Center at Kapiolani Community College:

✪ A core group of Hawai'i parents of deaf children gave birth to a new "child": a support/advocacy organization for parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing kids, and **Sandy Harvey**, Executive Director of the American Society for Deaf Children, served as the group's "midwife/grandmother." **Mary Balding** of Honolulu, who spearheaded the project, coordinated a one-day organizational conference with Harvey and other parents from all Island counties to bring the new group to life on November 19. By the end of the day, neighbor-island coordinators had been appointed and three committee chairs selected. **Ann VanNatta** is heading development of a brochure to notify professionals and "new" parents of deaf infants about the fledgling° organization; **Valery O'Brien** volunteered to coordinate the first annual statewide deaf-family gathering; and Balding is serving as newsletter editor. Helping parents establish their own support group is a priority for the Regional Center, which is now assisting the parents to secure local start-up funds.

✪ On December 1, **Marilyn Cassidy**, a founding member of California's IMPACT organization for parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing children, met with leaders of the new group to share ideas, advice, and materials, parent-to-parent. She serves as administrative assistant to the GURC at Ohlone College, Fremont, California, where her focus is on family education. Unknown to her, while in Hawai'i, she received the Harold Ramger Award from DCARA (Deaf Counseling, Advocacy and Referral Agency) in recognition of her work on behalf of deaf children and their families.

fledgling: newly-formed; young (e.g., as with an organization or group).

✪ "All About Architecture" . . . in ASL" was a new Regional Center after-school career-exploration class taught by noted Deaf architect and current Aloha State Association of the Deaf President **Tom Posedly** for pupils at the Statewide Center (Hawai'i's school for the deaf). He presented a "user-friendly" introduction to architecture that included a field trip to a special exhibit on the unique design features of Hawaiian homes and buildings.

✪ GTE Hawaiian Telephone Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) project administrator **Becky Siu-Rodriguez** unveiled two new instructional videotapes at the November meeting of SHHH Hawai'i. The videotapes were produced by GTE Hawaiian Tel to teach all phone users how to use the TRS. One is designed for voice users and the other for TTY users. Both are part of an ongoing effort by Hawai'i's TRS to educate the general public about the ease and etiquette of accessing the service. (In Hawai'i, TTY users simply dial ☎1-711; voice users, ☎1-511.) GTE Hawaiian Tel also has produced a series of TV spots featuring Deaf and hard-of-hearing actors to inform the hearing public about the TRS.

✪ "Yes, Virginia, there is a Deaf Santa Claus" was the title of the annual holiday program for deaf and hard-of-hearing children from all over the island of O'ahu. Over 200 children, teachers, and parents participated in the event, which was hosted by Pearlridge Shopping Center and covered on statewide news broadcasts. JP Pepperoni provided a pizza lunch for all. Performances featured favorite actors and storytellers from Hawai'i's Deaf Community. Not only was Deaf Santa there to chat and be photographed with each child, but Mrs. Claus joined in too. The Deaf Santa program, which just finished its fourth year, is the brainchild of **Jan Fried** of Kapi'olani Community College's ASL/Interpreter Education Program and **Doreen Higa** of the Statewide Center, who coordinated it along with Pearlridge Marketing Director **Scott Creel** and **Linda Miller** from the Regional Center. **Martin** and **Mabel Bienvenu** of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, played leading roles in this year's event—but hush, Virginia, that's a secret!

✪ The island of Kaua'i had its first meeting of a fledgling support group for hard-of-hearing and late-deafened people. Organized by **Dick Burkhalter**, Kaua'i resident and national secretary of the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA), the new organization is supported by the Regional Center and by Hawai'i's SHHH affiliate chapter, 'Ohana Kokua 'Ano Kuli (OKAK). The first meeting featured presentations by OKAK president **Norma Allison** and **Bob McKay**, the chapter's founder and newsletter editor.

A SHOW OF LOVE AND PRIDE

(This account is freely adapted from a firsthand report by **Garrett Walker**.)

North Carolina School for the Deaf turned the corner on its centennial (1894-1994) with a magnificent celebration of love and pride.* In what was perhaps NCSD's greatest moment and its alumni's finest hour, over 3,000 people showed up and displayed a unity, support and cooperation unsurpassed in recent memory.

The weekend celebration kicked off on Thursday, October 6, in the foothills of Morganton, in crisp autumn weather, with a tournament for fishers, golfers, and bowlers to test their "lost" skills. Meanwhile, at NCSD, students were stirring with excitement as they prepared to attend a theatrical play, ***An Evening with Dr. Goodwin***, starring NCSD alumni.

The play and the performances were superb; the talented cast made NCSD's history come alive. **Nat Wilson** brought Dr. **Edwin Goodwin**, NCSD's first superintendent, back to us again, living and breathing—the very spirit of the man. **Donna Smolik** and **Beverly Senter** did a first-class job of directing. Of course, the students gained valuable insight into their school's history—and had a great time, too. An Exhibit Hall was set up in the McCord Building with displays of deaf-related businesses and programs in large displays. It was a popular meeting-place for alumni, while others took advantage of the campus VIP tours offered by the administrative staff.

The opening ceremony took place at the packed Underhill Gym. An exciting moment was when beautiful portraits of NCSD's five superintendents—Dr. Goodwin, Dr. **Carl Rankin**, Dr. **Ben Hoffmeyer**, Dr. **Charles Henderson**, and **Elmer Dillingham**—were unveiled. They had been painted by NCSD alumna **Colleen Brinegar**. The Viva Club presented NCSD and Superintendent Dillingham with a huge hand-sewn quilt depicting the school mascot (a bear), landmark clock tower, and the complete manual alphabet. A priceless item, it will be kept in the school's museum. **Bill Simpson** and **Henry Dorsey** announced the dedication of new campus street signs honoring persons or places of historic significance. Surprisingly, they were in place early the next morning.

For a moment, past history, the present, and future visions were symbolically linked. Alumni expressed the hope that the future would prove as fruitful and prosperous for the present generation of deaf children as their own experiences had been for them. **Jesse Conrad**, an NCSD junior, made a poignant comment that the centennial gathering of alumni helped him gain tremendous insight into the Deaf world. The experience of social contact and a clearer visualization of what the future holds in store for them were especially meaningful. Dr. **I. King Jordan** was right. "We" can do anything, except hear.

Everyone was treated to a big campus fireworks display that was visible for miles around. Afterwards, the gym was turned into a dance floor with a deejay. While some went to bed early, others danced away the remainder of the night, well into the wee hours of morning. **Sally Dixon**, a hearing Middle School teacher, stole everyone's heart (she usually does), *and* the entire show with her heart-stopping ASL rendition of "Pretty Woman." Her spirited ASL performance would have been the envy of Las Vegas.

As old friendships faded into the night, participants savored the final moments, taking lingering goodbyes, and promising to stay in touch and get back together again—"hopefully sooner"!

The "one hundred years" is now part of history, much as we will be when the next hundred years rolls around. That doesn't prevent us from dreaming on . . . and on . . . and on!

*See "NCSD's centennial" in "Media Clips," November 1994 "News Briefs," p. 24.

MAKING HIV SERVICES MORE ACCESSIBLE

The Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency (FLHSA) has initiated° a new program designed to improve access to HIV-related services for deaf people in the greater Rochester area. The program, funded by a grant from the New York State Department of Health's AIDS Institute, creates a reimbursement pool to fund sign-language-interpreting services for agencies and organizations that cannot otherwise afford them.

The Sign Language Connection, a Rochester-based interpreting service, has been selected as the contracting agency. Organizations providing HIV-related services, such as medical, dental, and mental-health services, case management, social work, and legal assistance, are eligible to use the program. Interested agencies should contact FLSHA for further information.

Deaf persons requiring HIV-services should contact the appropriate HIV-service provider to schedule an appointment. The service provider will arrange for an interpreter to be present at the appointment. The Sign Language Connection cannot accept requests or referrals from individuals.

Background: FLHSA is an independent, nonprofit agency providing health-planning and development services in a 9-county region of New York State, including Monroe County and the greater Rochester area. Branch Office: 425 Pennsylvania Avenue, Room 312, Elmira, NY 14904; ☎(607) 737-5424 (Voice). Rochester Office: 1150 University Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607-1647; ☎(716) 461-3520 (Voice); ❐(716) 461-0997 (FAX).

initiated: here, started; kicked off.

DEAF ROCHESTERIANS' NEWSMAGAZINE

DRN RETURNS!

MSM Productions, Ltd., which publishes **DEAF LIFE**, has resumed publication of **Deaf Rochesterians' Newsmagazine**. **DRN** debuted in December 1987 and ceased publication after its October 1989 issue. By that time, **DEAF LIFE** was over a year old, and expanding; **DEAF LIFE Plus**, which increased the size of the magazine by one-third (and soon afterwards doubled it) debuted in December 1989. The tiny **DEAF LIFE** crew was hard-pressed to keep up with all this additional work. And—especially—because of lack of community support, they made the difficult decision to close **DRN**.

Since then, they'd been getting repeated requests to bring **DRN** back. The Rochester Deaf community has been without a central source of information on organizational/club events. The revived **DRN** began publication with the November 1994 issue, and has been circulating throughout the community. Staffers and friends have helped distribute copies. Publisher **Matthew S. Moore** is now scouting for advertisers and permanent distribution outlets.

The November issue of **DRN** contains local news and a calendar of events. It also includes a history of the proposed Deaf Rochesterians' Community Center and a draft of its constitution. At the end of the draft, there's an invitation to attend a town meeting in February, where deaf and hard-of-hearing residents of Rochester and Monroe County will have an opportunity to vote on the constitution. **DRN** will keep area residents informed of the progress of DRCC, which is now being incorporated. Moore plans to have **DRN** serve as the official publication of DRCC.

DRN is currently being distributed free, but is also available by mail. If you'd like **DRN** delivered to your mailbox, a year's subscription (12 issues) costs only $9.00. This covers postage, and any surplus subscription money will go towards the DRCC. Write: **Deaf Rochesterians' Newsmagazine**, c/o MSM Productions, Ltd., Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

STORYTELLING FOR THE SERIOUS

The New York Deaf Theatre is sponsoring a workshop on "The Art of Storytelling," taught by **Billy Seago**, a nationally-known ASL storyteller who has appeared in numerous video productions and presently is storyteller/director at the Seattle Children's Theatre Program.

During the weekend of January 20-22, Seago will cover translation, presentation styles, techniques, and audience awareness as they pertain to the art of storytelling. His workshop is open to Deaf and hearing participants who are fluent in ASL, have a theatrical background, and are open to creatively experimenting with different storytelling approaches. Participants are required to prepare two stories (classical, fable, or contemporary) for the workshop.

Info: The workshop will be held from 7-10 p.m. on January 20, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. on January 21, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on January 22., in NYDT's workshop-training room at 305 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001-6008. Registration is limited. For fee information, call **Jackie Roth**, Artistic Director, at ☎(212) 924-9535 (TTY).

THE A.D.A. AND US

The Vocational Services Center, an affiliate of the Lexington Center, Inc., New York University Center for Students with Disabilities, and NYU Program in Deafness, are co-sponsoring a 2-day workshop on *The ADA and the Deaf Community*, to be held on March 16 and 17 at NYU's campus in Greenwich Village, Manhattan.

Since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, several lectures and workshops have been offered in the Greater New York area. Most have focused on the general disabled community. None have dealt comprehensively with how the ADA applies to people who are deaf and therefore may have special and varied needs. This one will provide information and training for professionals who work with and serve deaf clients, and is for those already familiar with the law and want further training, *and* those whose knowledge may be minimal.

The first day of the workshop will be devoted to review and discussion of Title I, Employment. Recent reports and statistics have shown that insignificant advances have been made in this area by disabled populations protected by the ADA. "The Role of Rehabilitation in Promoting the ADA" will also be presented during this session. On the second day of the workshop, in addition to the remaining three titles of the ADA (State and Local Government, Accommodation, Telecommunication), other topics will include "Defining *Qualified* Interpreters" and "Advocacy Issues and Techniques." Participants will meet and see presentations by representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and New York State Department of Law—government agencies that play a key role in enforcement of the ADA. Many of the presenters are top attorneys in their field.

Info: Contact **Tony Allicino**, Workshop Coordinator, at Vocational Services Center, The Lexington Center, Inc., 75th Street and 30th Avenue, Jackson Heights, NY 11370, ☎(718) 899-8800 ext. 339 (TTY/Voice); ❐(718) 899-9846 (FAX).

CALL FOR PAPERS

Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc., is seeking proposals for sessions at its biennial convention in Boston, June 28-July 1, 1995. TDI encourages participation by consumers, industry, government, and professionals. Proposals are encouraged on any topic related to telecommunications (including TTYs, relay service, 9-1-1, information-superhighway issues, videotelephony, wireless communications, disaster-warning systems, etc.), television, information services, new technologies, or any other topic of importance to deaf people involving visual communications. The deadline for proposals is **February 1**. Proposals will be reviewed by the program committee. To submit a proposal, send a 200-250-word abstract describing the presentation or session. Please include the title, the presenters (names, organizations, and phone/fax numbers), and audio-visual requests. Also, indicate the type of program session in which the presentation or discussion will take place:

Round-table discussion or forum. Led by a moderator. There will be an opportunity for full discussion among a group of participants around a particular topic or issue. These may be proposed for up to two hours in length.

Panel. Focuses on a substantive topic or issue of importance. Each of 3 to 5 panelists will make a brief opening presentation reflecting a perspective on the topic. A moderator will then lead a panel discussion and questions and comments from the audience.

Formal presentation. A lecture or scientific paper on a topic likely to be of interest to convention participants. Two presentations will be assigned to each one-hour session. Each presentation should be limited to 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for questions and comments from the audience.

Poster and hands-on activity. A display of information, materials, and/or equipment derived from a project or research. Convention participants will circulate among the various activities and have an opportunity to interact with the presenter throughout the session.

Product demonstrations. Vendors will have an opportunity to demonstrate products that have come out since the last TDI convention. These will take place in the exhibition hall. Exhibitors may list scheduled demonstrations in the convention program. Vendors who are not exhibiting may submit a proposal to do a single demonstration. Product descriptions and demonstrations will not be accepted for platform presentations (sessions in meeting rooms).

Send all proposals to:

Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc.
8719 Colesville Road, Suite 300
Silver Spring, MD 20910
❒301-589-3797 (FAX)

Paula Katz: "The more aggressive I was toward my work, the more open I became about my identity."

CONFRONTATIONS AND SUPERIMPOSITIONS

On September 22-25, approximately 1,000 people attended the Deaf Way Illinois '94 Convention at the Bismarck Hotel in downtown Chicago. The Governor of Illinois and the Mayor of Chicago both honored the event with proclamations.

Paula Katz won First Place and Best of Show for the All-Media Exhibition. **Diana B[illegible]nadurer-Sullivan*** won Second Place; **Aaron Kubey**, Third Place.

Katz is from Glenview, Illinois, and lives in Chicago. She graduated from Hersey High School, and received her BFA degree in Drawing from Northern Illinois University in 1993. Her untitled winning piece is from her "Hands" series. Her comments:

> My life doesn't merely revolve around my identity as a deaf individual. Like many others, my accomplishments have been difficult to attain.
>
> At the beginning of this series of drawings, I wasn't satisfied with how I expressed my feelings as I worked on a few drawings. I felt shy because I wasn't sure how to express my feelings about deafness on paper. I was approaching my work in a delicate style. As I continued to do more drawings, I slowly realized I became more aware of how I wanted to express my feelings about being deaf. The more aggressive I was toward my work, the more open I became about my identity. From that experience, I realized that the process of making my art was a way of dealing with my frustrations and my way of handling confrontations. The direct contact with my hands rubbing, cutting up images, and overlaying of image seemed to me to be a way to perhaps symbolize the feelings I have.
>
> In addition, I felt the use of the diagrams that overlapped the hands showed misconceptions between deaf and hearing worlds.

Paula Katz's "Untitled," a mixed-media piece, incorporates the ASL sign for "oppression" and lipreading "diagrams."

*Deaf Art Gallery Coordinator, Deaf Way Illinois '94. This item is adapted from her firsthand report.

D.A.W. AT HARPER: SUCCESS AGAIN!

The second annual Deaf Awareness Week event at Harper College of Palatine, Illinois, was another great success, drawing 950 participants during the week of October 26-29. Many of the 12 events were presented in ASL by prominent Deaf leaders. Co-chairs **Debby Sampson** and **Kim Gibson-Harman** were gratified at the enthusiastic response. Credit should also go to **Karen Hale** and **Stephanie Wootten-Austin** for their countless hours of work, and to **Kristen Larsen** and **Shari Pergricht** for organizing "Deaf Town" and "Life After High School" (presented by **Edna Johnston** and **Stephanie Long**).

Other events: "ASL Across America: Chicago"—**Bob Paul**; "An Evening with Magic"—**Matthew Morgan**; "Harper Student Panel;" "Deaf Culture Potpourri"—Edna Johnston; "HIV/AIDS Prevention"—**Diana Thorpe**; "Deaf Culture"—**Robert Cook**; "ASL Storytelling Contest"—Edna Johnston; "Basic Investing"—**Tanya Hammersmith**; "Adult Hearing Loss Ain't Kid Stuff"—**Helene Maram**, **Kathie Hering**, **Heidi Adams**, and **Barbara Wacker**; and "Since Deaf President Now—Where We Are"—**Philip Bravin**.

Several co-sponsors contributed their services to the DAW event, including Harper College Center for Students with Disabilities, Harper College Deaf/Hard of Hearing Advisory Council, Collegiate Illinois Association of the Deaf, Sign Language Club, Captions First, Chicago Hearing Society, Gallaudet University Regional Center at Johnson County Community College (GURC/JCCC), Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services, St. Paul Technical College, Stop AIDS Harper, Whitehouse and Associates, Inc., and Taubensee Steel and Wire Company of Wheeling.

All in all, DAW at Harper would not have been possible without these presenters and co-sponsors. Simpson and Gibson-Harman extend their thanks.

EXPRESS ROUTE TO THE "RECOVERY TRACK"

Innovative Partnerships in Recovery: The Diverse Deaf Experience (Overland Park, Kansas, November 3-5) drew more than 150 participants from across the United States and Canada who were enthused to learn and share information about substance abuse. The conference was jointly sponsored by GURC/JCCC, the National Academy of Gallaudet, and the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals. It hosted deaf and hearing presenters from many places and roles, including professionals serving deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, educators, recovering persons, and substance-abuse professionals. In addition to a special "Recovery Track," the conference sessions included Deaf culture and language; an introduction to chemical dependency; prevention strategies for substance abuse, HIV, and AIDS; sexuality issues; peer mediation; relapse prevention; family issues; grant-writing, and many other topics.

There were keynote sessions, specialized trainings, and concurrent sessions, as well as a number of poster sessions. At the conference opening on Thursday evening, November 3, Kansas Senator **Bud Burke** and members of the conference-planning committee gave welcomes. The evening's highlight was the performance of a play, ***Without a Kiss Goodbye***, written and acted by students from the Kansas School for the Deaf. It told the story of a young deaf woman who was graduating from high school and her grief at the loss of her father in an accident with a drunk driver. The students performed beautifully and helped participants remember the grave importance of working together to combat substance-abuse problems.

Other keynote sessions included a panel of "survivors" who shared their stories of recovery from alcohol and other drugs. Each talked about their struggle to live on a day-to-day basis without using alcohol or other drugs. Although each experienced different events and different treatment experiences, all impressed upon participants how much their lives had improved since they became sober. This session was moderated by Dr. **Peter Seiler**, Superintendent of the Illinois School

for the Deaf.

The third keynote presentation following Saturday's luncheon banquet dealt with multicultural issues. It also featured the announcement of the winner of a national poster contest held in conjunction with the conference. More than 175 deaf and hard-of-hearing students had submitted entries for the contest. The winner, **Jennifer Tadloc** (California School for the Deaf, Riverside), was presented with a framed copy of her poster; it was also distributed to all the conference attendees. Dr. **Glenn Anderson**, director of training at the Rehabilitation and Research Training Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (University of Arkansas at Little Rock) and also Chairman of the Gallaudet Board of Trustees, spoke briefly about the ways in which substance abuse had touched his life. He then introduced **Rose Moore**, a trainer with the Institute for Black Chemical Abuse in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She spoke about the need for understanding and acceptance of cultural differences and the need for partnerships in education, treatment, and recovery from substance abuse.

Two-hour training sessions were also offered to participants on Thursday afternoon as well as Friday and Saturday mornings. The following sessions were included:

"Orientation to Deafness"—**Tom Kober** and **Susan Karchmer**; "Orientation to Chemical Dependency"—**Cynthia Weitzel;** "Recovery Anthology"—**Betty Miller**, **Nancy Moser**, and **Jacqueline Schertz**; "Specialized Approaches in Chemical Dependency Treatment"—**Deb Guthmann**, **Ron Lybarger**, and **Katherine Sandberg**; "Towards Consistency in Communication"—Cynthia Weitzel, **Chuck Roundy**, **Roger Williams**, and **Mark Alan English**; "Writing Successful Grant Applications"—**Janet Dick**; "Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention with Deaf Youth"—**Patti Forintos** and **Cindi Sternfeld**; and "One Look at Domestic Violence"—**Mary Bauer**.

The remainder of the conference was filled with a variety of concurrent presentations. During each of the four time slots, participants had the opportunity to choose one of five sessions. These presentations offered conference participants the opportunity to access a number of different topics. **Diane Leonard** of Minneapolis spoke about primary prevention efforts in the context of family. **Jody Smith** of Michigan showed a prevention video developed by her agency for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. **Lynda Myers**, Chicago, discussed shame and identity issues. Cynthia Weitzel's presentation "Clowning Around" showed the use of clowning as a prevention activity. Jackie Schertz's presentation focused on a video on date/acquaintance rape. Ron Lybarger facilitated a discussion of how persons might work a program of recovery without a Twelve Step group. **Teresa Lanning** of the Kansas School for the Deaf spoke about issues of sexuality and intimacy for deaf teens. Cindi Sternfeld, Substance Awareness Coordinator from New Jersey, explained important considerations of AIDS education for young deaf students. Nancy Moser, UCCD in San Francisco, showed a newly-developed video featuring personal stories of addiction and recovery.

Exhibits of various agencies and vendors were available throughout the conference. Booths contained a variety of information and products—manual-alphabet jewelry and clothing, books and curriculum material, and program information. Evening sessions on Friday gave participants the opportunity to participate in a substance-abuse task-force session and a round-table discussion of ethical issues. Twelve Step meetings were also held each evening for recovering people.

Conference Chair Tom Kober of Gallaudet, and Program Co-Chairs Debra Guthmann and Katherine Sandberg (both of the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals), all thought the conference was highly successful. Not only did participants have the opportunity to learn about what is happening in the field, but they also had many chances to network with others interested in substance-abuse services for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons. During the conference wrap-up session, participants frequently commented about the enthusiasm displayed by presenters and participants alike. Many noted the genuine spirit of partnership evident at the conference.

—reported by Katherine Sandberg

Info: Presentation papers submitted by the conference speakers are being compiled into a conference proceedings at Gallaudet, available for purchase later in the year. Questions or requests for information should be directed to Ms, Sandberg at ☎1-800-282-3323 (TTY/Voice). Address: Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals, 2450 Riverside Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55454.

BLUE VS. GRAY VS. DEAF

Fairmount Theatre of the Deaf is presenting ***Counterfeits***, a world-premiere production written by FTD Artistic Director **Shanny Mow**, at the Studio One Theatre of the Cleveland Play House from January 12-29, 1995. It's the only full-length professional production being staged in the States this season that is written by a deaf playwright and performed by both deaf and hearing actors.

Counterfeits presents a truly unique perspective of an event which has been much talked and written about. It takes place during the fourth year of the American Civil War (a.k.a. "The War Between the States"). A Rebel soldier is separated from his unit and finds himself face-to-face with a Yankee scout. Ironically, the soldiers discover they are both deaf. Although the two should be enemies, their common experiences (and persecutions) as deaf men create a bond, which is the focus of the play. As they share stories of their struggles to survive in an uncomprehending and indifferent world, a spiritual kinship develops between them, only to be shattered by the realities of war and the systems under which they are forced to live.

Enemies, brothers, or victims? John Kinstler (left) **and David Prince in FTD's world-premiere production of Shanny Mow's *Counterfeits*.**

This production features the full FTD company, plus two guest artists. Playing the two lead roles are company member **John Kinstle**r and guest artist **David Prince**. Kinstler, a native of Madison, Wisconsin, made his FTD debut last year in ***Children of a Lesser God***. He previously toured with the National Theatre of the Deaf and Sunshine Too, (NTID's traveling-theater company). Prince, who lives in Scottsdale, New York (near Rochester), studied theater and dance for four years at NTID. He also toured with Sunshine Too and trained at NTD's Professional Theatre School.

Also featured: FTD company members **Antoinette Abbamonte**, **Rachel Hollander**, and **Brian Kapell**, as well as FTD Resident Artistic Director **Michael Regnier**. Abbamonte, Hollander, and Kapell have toured as part of FTD's Education Outreach company; their most recent stage credits include last season's ***Pinocchio Live!*** and ***Children of a Lesser God***. Regnier starred in FTD's Fall 1994 production, ***I Ought to Be in Pictures***.

When he joined the FTD staff in 1990, Mow became the first deaf artistic director in America. ***Counterfeits*** is the first full-length original piece he has written for FTD. He previously wrote a number of works for NTD, where he serves as director of the Playwrights conference. In addition to writing, he is an accomplished director. His FTD credits include ***I Ought to Be in Pictures*** and last season's ***Escoffier: King of Chefs*** and ***Children of a Lesser God***. He is adept at staging combined ASL/spoken-English productions.

For ticket information, contact FTD at ☎(216) 229-2838 (TTY/Voice) or Cleveland Play House Ticket Office at ☎(216) 795-7000 (Voice).

LIGHTS! CURTAIN! PERESTROIKA!

Lights On! Deaf Theatre of Rochester, New York, is currently undergoing *perestroika*—complete restructuring. In November, the Lights On! Board of Directors appointed **Scotty Zwicker** as the new Artistic Director. Matthew S. Moore, Publisher of **DEAF LIFE**, was also appointed Interim President, and has been initiating major changes, including a new constitution and bylaws.

Zwicker, a veteran Lights On! volunteer, seeks to shift the focus from translating and adapting "Hearing" plays to mounting original ASL plays by Deaf playwrights. He is actively seeking scripts by Deaf playwrights. He also plans to organize a series of workshops for Deaf and hard-of-hearing people who are interested in writing plays and getting involved in community theater, and gather together a crew of Deaf volunteers to specialize in technical and auxiliary aspects of theater (lighting, costumes, scenery and props, etc.)—including those without any previous theater experience, just basic skills and willingness to learn. He seeks to encourage more grassroots-Deaf participation.

Moore also wants to encourage more Deaf women to contribute scripts and to participate on all levels. (More scripts with more good female roles are needed.) He and Zwicker are currently reviewing a ba' h of promising Deaf-authored scripts, and exciting plans are afoot.

AUDITIONS

The next scheduled production is **Gil Eastman's** pioneering ASL play, ***Sign Me Alice***. Auditions will be held starting 7 p.m. on February 12 at Rochester Recreation Club of the Deaf, 1564 Lyell Avenue, and February 13 and 14 at Rochester School for the Deaf, 1545 St. Paul Street. Volunteers are also needed for non-acting positions such as ASL Consultant, Box Office Manager, Costume/Makeup Designer, House Manager, Lighting Manager, and Set Designer.

LOGO CONTEST

Lights On! is also holding a competition for a new logo design. Rules: Any black-and-white medium—computer graphics, painting, ink, etc.—is acceptable. Design MUST show or symbolize the theme of "Deaf theatre." Limit: three different designs per entrant. Make sure to include your name, address, and phone number on the back of each design. (Warning: artwork will NOT be returned.) **Deadline: February 17**. All entries MUST be postmarked by this date. Send your entries to Lights On! Logo Contest, c/o Scotty Zwicker, P.O. Box 93130, Rochester, NY 14692. Winners will be announced in March. Prizes include two free tickets to ***Sign Me Alice***, a poster and program book from each Lights On! production, a T-shirt and other accessories with the winning design, and $100 cash.

☛ For more information, call Lights On! at ☎(716) 242-8526 (TTY) or ☎(716) 242-8524 (Voice).

UNBURIED TREASURE

DawnPictures has released a new documentary videotape, ***Charles Krauel: A Profile of a Deaf Filmmaker***. Dr. **Ted Supalla**, the director, spent several years following and studying the life of **Charles Krauel**. The result is an extraordinary video giving a rare view of Deaf life in the early 1900s.

Krauel, a FRAT member long known to the Chicago Deaf community for his filmmaking activities, bought his first movie camera in 1925 and began recording various Deaf-community events over the next 50 years. He and his best friend, **Chas Yanzito**, shot thousands of feet of film. Krauel died at the age of 98, leaving behind a rich legacy showing the everyday life of Deaf people throughout the middle half of the 20th century.

Supalla has compiled clips from Krauel's treasury of film, including vintage footage of Krauel's experiences from travels to community activities, and put them together in an engaging story for today's Deaf community and future generations of Deaf Americans to cherish. In an interview with Krauel himself, Supalla is able to add even more depth to our understanding of this Deaf filmmaker. The video is open-captioned with voice-over.

The Illustrated Viewer's Guide to the Documentary, written by Supalla and Dr. Carol Padden, will be available shortly. A companion to the videotape, it discusses classic ASL signs that are no longer used today and provides historical notes on famous people and deaf schools, technical notes on film equipment, and a transcription of the interview.

SIGN ME ELEPHANT?

DawnSignPress has also published **My ABC Signs of Animal Friends** by **Joe Dannis** and **Ben Bahan**. Beautifully illustrated in watercolors by **Patricia Pearson**, it introduces 26 unique animal signs, along with the English and American Manual alphabets. Until now, animals had never been shown signing their own particular signs. This is the first book of its kind.

It's an excellent educational primer for children to learn both English and ASL, as taught by friends in the animal kingdom. With each illustration, there is an English letter and a corresponding handshape. Easy-to-understand instructions for fingerspelling, as well as guidelines showing how to animate the signs with the proper hand movements, are included. With its amiable and inviting theme and visuals, it will enrich young minds when language-learning ability is at its peak.

"EVEN MORE USER-FRIENDLY"

Ultratec's new computer-style keyboard for the Superprint 4425, which includes features of the Superprint 4420 plus new user-friendly capabilities. The Miniprint series has likewise been redesigned.

Ultratec has redesigned its Superprint 4420™ and Miniprint™ series of printing TTYs. They have all of the features of Ultratec's current models, plus an overall new look and additional keys.

Says **Jeff Hilliard**, an Engineering Manager at Ultratec, "The new look of the white and gray keyboard more closely resembles a computer keyboard." Extra keys—including convenient "GA" and "SK"—have been added. The addition of arrow keys make it easy to read TTY conversations in memory, auto-answer messages, or saved memos. Raised locator marks for touch typists have also been added to the "home" row of the keyboard.

"We are constantly striving to make our TTYs even more user-friendly and helpful to the people who rely on them," says Hilliard. "The new TTYs maintain all of the advanced features of the current units, plus a few refinements that make conversations that much easier."

New model numbers in the Miniprint and Superprint series indicate TTYs with the new look and features. The Miniprint 225 replaces the Miniprint 220, the Miniprint 425 replaces the Miniprint 420, and the Superprint 4425 replaces the Superprint 4420.

The Superprint 4425 also now includes separate function keys to easily send and edit memos, and a greeting key for one-touch sending of a personalized greeting message.

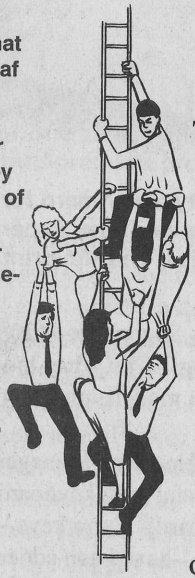
The new models are available from Ultratec dealers throughout the United States and Canada. The retail prices of the new models remain the same, even with the new look and features.

WAKE-UP CALL

In early November, Eye Festival Communications reached an agreement with Hear-More Products of Farmingdale, New

The *perfect* holiday gift.

For your hearing friends, parents, family, boss, neighbors, classmates, teachers, co-workers. . . or yourself!



I've noticed that successful deaf persons are always put down by other deaf people, by means of lack of support and gossip—back-stabbing, name-calling, nasty rumors. Can't deaf people appreciate successful achievers who benefit their community?

Deaf people:

Tired of having to answer the same old questions?
Tired of having to explain your culture over and over again to hearing people?

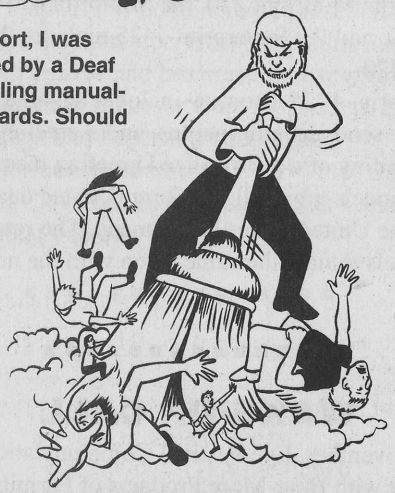
Hearing people:

Need a "quick fix" for your questions about the Deaf community?
Ever wished there was an enjoyable laypeople's handbook on Deaf Studies?

Here's a solution!

Here in one handy volume, in a Q/A format, are concise answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about the Deaf community, its culture, sign language, and communication. Written in a simple, clear, nontechnical style for those without any prior background. All 60 chapters of the popular "For Hearing People Only" feature from the first 5 years of **DEAF LIFE** are included—newly revised, expanded, and illustrated. 336 pages.

At the airport, I was approached by a Deaf person selling manual-alphabet cards. Should I buy one?



"*How* did Alexander Graham Bell almost succeed in wiping out Deaf Culture?"

"What is Deaf Culture? Has anyone studied it from a sociological perspective?"

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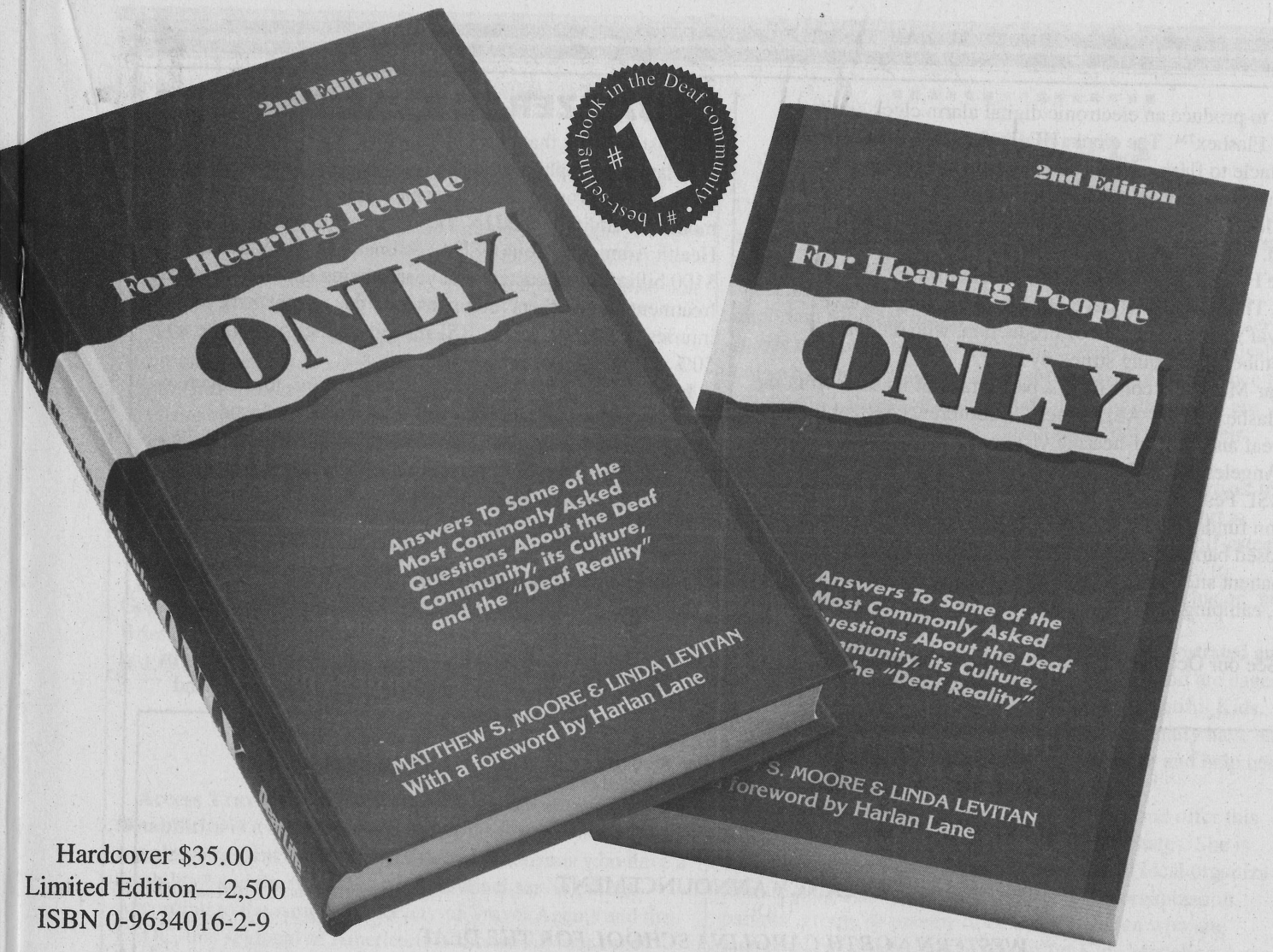
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York, to produce an electronic digital alarm clock similar to its EF Flashex™. The clock, HF Flashex, has a built-in receptacle to flash a light source to wake up a deaf or hard-of-hearing user, snooze, AM-PM indicator, and top switch so the same light source can be used to light the room or for reading in bed.

Eye Festival has sold over 10,000 EF Flashex clocks since 1986. This model was developed by **Rick Rogers**, Eye Festival's Vice-President of Production, who died last September after being struck by a car.*

Hear-More will contribute a percentage of its sales from the HF Flashex to the "ASL Ranch," a conference/retreat facility for Deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors to be located just outside Los Angeles. Plans for the ASL Ranch were unveiled during the ASL Festival evening program on November 12, and a $2 million fundraising campaign was officially kicked off. The proposed barrier-free, year-round facility would provide a permanent site for the ASL Festival and tournaments, conventions, camping and field excursions. picnics, and weddings.

* See our October 1994 issue, page 30, glossy section.

EQUALIZER—OR TERMINATOR?

Statistics show that as many as 5% of the North American population have physical disabilities serious enough to prevent them from using a personal-computer keyboard or mouse. In addition, the U.S. Occupational and Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that as much as $100 billion (U.S. currency) a year is being spent on medical treatment and workers' compensation due to repetitive strain injuries (RSI). In Canada, RSI-related injuries now make up 50% of workers'-compensation claims.

In late November, Kolvox Communications, the Canadian-based speech-recognition-software vendor, introduced OfficeTALK for People with Disabilities, a software application enabling those with disabilities or RSI to use their personal computers productively.*

Product Manager **Dan Thompson** (one of the company's founders) said that it "applies speech-recognition technology to the everyday office tasks of document creation, editing, and management. I call this product 'The Equalizer' because it's designed to provide a means to a productive livelihood, empowering even those with speech disorders to function in an office environment. As a quadriplegic, I know firsthand

State of North Carolina
Department of Human Resources
Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
695-A Palmer Drive, Anderson Building, Dorothea Dix Campus
Post Office Box 29532, Raleigh, North Carolina 27626-0532

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
Morganton, North Carolina

SUPERINTENDENT, SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
(Superintendent reports to the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.)

Salary Range: $41,963 - $66,973

Responsibility: all aspects of the educational, residential, and auxiliary operations of a residential school serving 300 students (ages 0-21 deaf and hard-of-hearing, multiply-handicapped deaf and hard-of-hearing), staff of 235 and a budget of $8.1 million.

****

Qualifications: Master's degree in school administration or education for the deaf and five years' experience with deaf education preferably with three years as a teacher and two years of administrative and supervisory experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Management requires an individual with expressive and receptive sign-language skills, working knowledge of Deaf Culture, and familiarity with Total Quality Management.

NOTE: Qualified deaf or hard-of-hearing and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

SEND RÉSUMÉ TO:
James K. Sewell, Personnel Director
Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
(See address listed above)
Telephone (919) 733-1846 (Voice/TTY), Fax (919) 715-0484

Application Deadline: February 3, 1995
Anticipated Appointment: April 1, 1995 (Negotiable)

An Equal Opportunity Employer

how important it is for people with disabilities to have careers and contribute as equally as others."

"It puts you on a level playing field. You're able to do the same work as anyone else in the same amount of time," said **Bob Brown**, another quadriplegic who is a program-liaison officer with the Accessible Transportation Directorate, National Transportation Agency of Canada. "If I didn't have it, I wouldn't be able to do all the written communications that are part of my job."

With this software package, users simply speak into a microphone and their computer responds, carrying out commands and displaying their words on the computer screen to create and edit documents, ranging from letters and memos to complex documents and reports. Since users "train" the software to understand their voices, the system can even recognize words spoken by people with speech disorders resulting from multiple sclerosis or strokes.

* See also, "The Boom in Speech-Recognition Technology: Good News for Some of Us?", November 1994 "News Briefs," p. 16; and "Can Your Computer Read Your Lips?" in last month's "News Briefs," p. 12.

BOOK IT UP

Access Travel U.S.A.: A Directory for People with Disabilities is a quick-reference book designed to aid the traveling segment of the 48.9 million U.S. citizens who have a disability* and the travel-agency personnel serving them. According to the American Society of Travel Agents and the EEOC, this segment of Americans is increasing four times faster than the general population.

Title III of the ADA, enacted in July 1990, requires nondiscrimination on the basis of disability by public accommodations and in commercial facilities. During the past four years, the travel industry has invested millions of dollars in the adaptation, renovation, and construction of facilities and services to meet ADA standards. Information on compliance with those crucial° dimensions in hotels, resorts, cruise ships, ski equipment and instruction, and ground-transportation-provider facilities has been gathered by **Candida H. Cremona** in one concise compendium.

ACCESS Travel U.S.A. is 176 pages with a full-color soft cover, about the size of a thick trade magazine. It has been produced in cooperation with the tourism divisions in the 50 states and commonwealths as well as Washington, D.C. The easy-to-use chart format includes up to 20 categories per listing, such as specific room dimensions, door widths, etc. It's published by Creative Hospitality Concepts, Inc., of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

*The publisher's press release says: "Original source of the statistic comes from a special survey conducted by the Census Bureau, October 1991-April 1992."

crucial: vitally important.

GOAL MODELS

On October 1, the Beautiful Kids Modeling Agency for Differently-Abled Children opened its doors. Although some advertisers have been using children with disabilities in their advertising for several years now, traditional modeling agencies have not shown any interest in representing this important segment of our population. Beautiful Kids understands the numbers—over 49 million Americans with disabilities—and the need to tear down the barriers of acceptance that still exist by demonstrating that the lives of those who are disabled are not about their "disabilities" but about their "abilities."

When she learned how difficult it was for an advertiser to locate these children, **Ginnie Cummo** decided to start a modeling agency for them. "We need to build the self-esteem of our physically-challenged children and help them to achieve their life goals. We can only do this by inclusion, not exclusion."

Parents of children with disabilities have demonstrated an overwhelmingly positive response to this idea, and are eager to send their children's photos and specs to Beautiful Kids. Said one, "This is an answer to my prayers. I finally have an avenue to help build my daughter's self-esteem and help her to see herself like other non-disabled children."

Cummo plans to build a national databank and offer this service to advertisers throughout the United States. She is seeking the support of national, regional, and local organizations to help her locate these children. Any organization, parents' group, or parents of disabled children who are interested can contact her at: Beautiful Kids Modeling Agency for Differently-Abled Children, P.O. Box 506, Ironia, NJ 07845; ☎(201) 927-7759 (Voice).

EMPHASIS ON ABILITY (AS ALWAYS)

Give Ability a Chance, the National Easter Seal Society's 1995 multi-media public-service advertising campaign, creates a renewed public awareness of Easter Seals' dual role as a provider of quality rehabilitation services and as a resource on disability issues of concern to communities nationwide. This includes people with disabilities in our schools and as viable, desirable consumers on our communities.

Lorenzo Music, the voice of "Garfield the Cat," narrates the television public-service spot (PSA). The 30- and 20-second PSAs ask viewers to remember that kids with disabilities should not be segregated from regular school life simply because they have disabilities. In concert° with a print ad and poster, the TV spot encourages everyone to consider the best individual options for every child.

Equality, Dignity, Independence, the campaign's 60- and

30-second radio spots, let listeners know that Easter Seals provides important rehabilitation services for children and adults with disabilities. More than this, it reminds listeners that Easter Seal Societies also are a resource for making their communities accessible so that people with disabilities can participate in community life. Good Business, a 30-second spot, tells listeners that there are 49 million money-spending consumers ready and willing to take their business where it's accessible.

The 1994 EDI (equality/dignity/independence) Awards ceremony was held in New York City last fall. It was a wonderful event, with an audience of almost 500 on hand to honor some of the best print and broadcast journalists, advertisers, TV shows, and companies working to advance the cause of people with disabilities.

Background: Founded in 1919 by businessman Edgar Allen, the National Easter Seal Society is the first organization established to help children and adults with disabilities. Seventy-five years later, the national society has grown to include 135 affiliates operating almost 500 service sites throughout the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C.

Easter Seals has built a strong reputation for the quality of its rehabilitation programs, prevention, and public-education services. For the fifteenth year in a row, the National Health Council named Easter Seals as the nationwide leader among its member organizations for the percentage of program dollars spent on direct client services or 94% of total program expenses in 1994. Also in 1994, the tenth consecutive year, Easter Seal Societies reported serving more than one million people.

in concert: together, in connection.

THE POWER OF MUSIC

Musicians including B.B. King, Sawyer Brown, Little Feat, and Yes lent their support during their individual summer-concert tours to the America in Concert with Very Special Arts program. Now celebrating its third year, the AIC/VSA program in a national awareness/fundraising effort designed to further VSA's goal of promoting awareness of the educational and cultural benefits of the arts for all people, especially people with disabilities.

Ticketmaster sponsored the program nationally, and MCA- and PACE-owned amphitheaters across the country participated by increasing the public's awareness of VSA. "In our industry, we get the biggest thrill out of seeing how music enhances people's lives," said Thomas Rooney, former general manager of Coca-Cola Star Lake Amphitheatre and current CEO and Executive Vice President of PACE Facilities Group. "We are especially excited to see how the America in Concert program adds to the lives of those with disabilities."

The following amphitheaters participated in the 1994 America in Concert program: Blossom Music Center, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Coca-Cola Star Lake Amphitheatre, Burgettstown Pennsylvania; Coca-Cola Lakewood Amphitheatre, Atlanta, Georgia; Coca-Cola Starplex Amphitheatre, Dallas, Texas; Walnut Creek Amphitheatre, Raleigh, North Carolina.

The program involved artists participating in pre-concert receptions at the amphitheaters, which included meeting people with disabilities and discussing the importance of music for personal growth and awareness. "We believe music is an extension of one's self," said Sawyer Brown's lead singer, Mark Miller. "Sawyer Brown agrees with Very Special Arts—that music can communicate just as effectively, or more effectively, than the spoken or written word." In recognition of their support, artwork—created by VSA artists—was presented to each musician at the receptions.

The America in Concert program began in 1992, when VSA joined forces with music-industry leaders to oversee the program. Joel Katz, an entertainment attorney based in Atlanta, Georgia, organized the America in Concert National Committee:

Brian Becker, Vice-Chairman, PACE Entertainment Corporation; Marc Bension, Executive Vice President and COO,° Ticketmaster; Jason Berman, Chairman and CEO, Recording Industry Association of America; Joel Cherry, Esq., EMI Records, Vice President, Business Affairs; Joel Katz, Esq., Katz, Smith, and Cohen; Rick Dobbis, President and CEO, PolyGram Label Group; Fred Rosen, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Ticketmaster; Larry Solters, Scoop Marketing.

COO: chief operating officer; **CEO**: chief executive officer.

ARMS AND THE MAN

John Thompson, the young man who amazed the nation with his bravery in 1992 following a farm accident in which both his arms were severed, shared his story of personal courage on December 6 at NTID, as part of its Special Speakers Series.

Thompson was born and raised in Hurdsfield, North Dakota, 90 miles northeast of Bismarck, where his family operates a 3,000-acre farm. One day in January 1992, as he prepared to feed the pigs on his family's farm, he became the victim of a freak accident. A slip on the ice, a tug on his shirt, and within seconds his limbs were caught in the spinning shaft of a tractor-powered auger. Both arms were ripped from his body. Clenching a pen between his teeth as blood streamed down his sides, he managed to peck out the 7-digit telephone call that saved his life, then crawled into a bathtub to await the ambulance, struggling to remain conscious. Miraculously, some 5 hours later, microsurgeons successfully reattached

Thompson's arms.

Alone on the farm when the ghastly° mishap occurred, Thompson, then 18, amazed the entire nation with his bravery and clearheadedness in the moments following his accident. A few days later, **People Weekly** covered the story of his remarkable determination in the face of death.

No longer able to work on the farm, he now tours the country speaking to audiences about overcoming obstacles.

ghastly: horrible; gruesome.

FROM THE FRONTIERS OF AUDIOLOGY

Recruit, train, & drill: Cochlear Corporation, manufacturer of the Nucleus 22 Channel cochlear-implant system, is offering additional one-year clinical fellowships, beginning July 1995.* The Fellowship Program, established in 1991, provides certified or CFY audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and deaf educators with special training in cochlear-implant technology, including evaluation and rehabilitation procedures. The fellowships are administered by selected cochlear-implant centers that are seeking the services of a Fellow to help them develop and expand their implant programs.

During the past 4 years, fellowships have been conducted at 25 implant centers across the country, including hospital programs, private centers, and a school for the deaf. To date, 33 fellows have completed the one-year program, and most continue to work with the implant teams that initially trained them.

"The Fellowship Program continues to be successful," says **Adrienne Wright**, Cochlear Corporation's Fellowship Program Coordinator. "We are especially encouraged that the majority of graduate fellows continue their work in cochlear-implant activities."

This year, Cochlear will select approximately 10 implant centers and programs to co-sponsor the fellowships. Centers are selected for their training capability and the depth of experience they can provide. Fellows spend 50% of their time (20 hours per week) working in the area of implants to learn candidate evaluation and selection procedures, programming, rehabilitation, and counseling/liaison skills.

*See "Drill team," March 1994 "News Briefs," p. 23.

For surgeons and audiologists: Cochlear Corporation will hold an implant-training workshop for surgeons and audiologists Wednesday to Friday, February 22-24, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Denver, Colorado. The surgeon sessions will be held on Wednesday and Thursday; sessions for audiologists on all three days.

The program includes instruction in patient selection for surgeons and audiologists, followed by a temporal-bone lab and surgical case presentation for surgeons and a practicum in psychophysical testing, programming of the speech processor, and patient rehabilitation for audiologists.

The surgical section will be headed by Dr. **Noel Cohen** of New York University Medical Center and Dr. **David Kelsall** of Denver Ear Associates. Audiologists **Judith Brimacombe** and **Anne Beiter** of Cochlear Corporation, along with audiologists **William Shapiro** of NYUMC and **Jon Shallop** of the Denver Ear Institute, will conduct the audiologists' section.

Statistics to ponder: Since the Nucleus 22 implant received FDA approval, more than 10,000 people, including more than 4,000 children, have received it.

MEDIA CLIPS

"We lost her"

On Saturday afternoon, July 30, **Natalie Anita McAbee**, 11, of Fairview, North Carolina, was struck by a pickup truck while crossing the street in front of her home. She was listed in critical condition at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, and died five days later, on August 3.

State Highway Patrol **Gib Clements**, who investigated the accident, was quoted in the Morganton **News Herald** as saying, "She was trying to cross the road and evidently being hearing-impaired, she didn't hear the truck coming. By the time she did notice it, it was too late."[1] He described the accident as "a double tragedy," adding that no charges would be filed against 16-year-old **Joseph Hosley** of Fairview, who was driving the truck. Clements said that Hosley, who had only had his license for 6 weeks, couldn't have done anything to avoid the accident. He was driving north on Garren Creek Road when "apparently the little girl ran out in front of him."[2]

The driver of a second pickup truck, which rear-ended Hosley's truck and may also have hit Natalie, "left the scene and was being sought by authorities," according to Clements.[3] A description of this truck was published in the newspapers.

Natalie would have entered 6th grade at NCSD this past fall. She was active in several student activities—Jr. NAD, Student Council, Girl Scouts, Art Club, volleyball, and basketball. An honor-roll student, she had the highest grade average of the 5th-grade class, was a skilled signer, and popular with her classmates. Her parents, **Lesa** and **Brian McAbee**, are NCSD graduates ('81 and '79), and her brother, **Andrew**, is a 3rd-grader there.

NCSD Middle School Principal **Keith Cagle** visited Natalie in the hospital after learning about the accident. In an official memo issued after her death, Cagle said that newspaper and TV reports made it sound as though the accident was Natalie's fault because she was deaf. He'd heard that police hadn't even taken photographs of the scene. Moreover, the road in front of the McAbees' mailbox, where Natalie was hit, was clearly visible for at least several hundred feet (700 feet, according to

the McAbees). Cagle saw no skid marks on the road to indicate an effort to brake or stop. He doubted that Natalie, with her maturity and intelligence, would have crossed the road without looking, and surmised° that Hosley caught her by surprise. According to a state DMV ruling, a vehicle *must* stop when there's a pedestrian crossing the street. The McAbees were planning to file a lawsuit against Hosley.

At least 200 friends and relatives likewise visited Natalie in the hospital. They were stunned by her sudden death. At least 1,000 people attended her wake to pay their final respects.

"She had so much potential," Cagle said. "She could have been one of our great deaf leaders of tomorrow, but we lost her. . . . Natalie's death is a great loss to our Middle School. We will always remember and cherish her in our memories at NCSD."

[1] Susan Woody Martin, "NCSD student, 11, dies 5 days after accident," **The News Herald**, August 5, 1994

[2] "11-year-old critical," Mountains/Local News, **Asheville Citizen-Times**, July 31, 1994.

[3] "11-year-old critical," **Asheville Citizen-Times**.

surmised: speculated; theorized.

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Pete Wilson's can of worms

We recently received a copy of a letter to California Governor **Pete Wilson**, reproduced here verbatim:

To Governor Pete Wilson:

Several years ago, the number of the hearing people was larger on the Gallaudet University Board, they voted for the hearing President of Gallaudet University. Okay, I admit that the number of the Deaf people is smaller across the United States of America than the hearing population but we, the Deaf, organized and protested against the Board. Several days later the whole world did HEAR us and a Deaf person was finally hired to be the Deaf President of Gallaudet University. We won the victory.

Now you have been re-elected governor of California, you are in favor of Prop. 187. May I suggest that you do not side against people who are opposed Prop. 187. Now the number of anti-187 protesters is small, but you better wait and watch out as the number will grow bigger and bigger. The world will hear us to overthrow Prop. 187 as well as we can vote to remove you from office, too.

F. R. Gomez, Poeta Sordo Latino
Union City, California

Copies were likewise sent to other Deaf Community periodicals, the **San Francisco Chronicle**, **TIME**, National Hispanic Council, United Farm Workers, **The Worker**, and **La Raza**.

We don't know what sort of luck Mr. Gomez had getting his letter published. But Proposition 187—a bill to deny social and health services to illegal immigrants—passed. And it's been generating plenty of controversy.

Judging from the variety of letters published in **TIME**, the general community is deeply divided on the issue. On one hand, some taxpayers feel that Proposition 187 isn't cruel, inhumane, or unconstitutional. "Illegals" put a strain on already overburdened schools and services. Legal immigrants have to go through a standard process involving paperwork and waiting. Illegals try to shortcut this process. By taking measures against illegal, not legal, immigrants, 187 sends a clear signal to would-be new arrivals that the U.S. is not the land of golden opportunity for those who "jump the line."

Other letters, some written by descendants of legal immigrants, express dismay at the law. They feel that as long as the "illegals" are here, they shouldn't be denied essential services (e.g., health care). They're also worried that 187 might lead to harassment of all "brown-skinned" people in California. Moreover, as one writer notes, "illegals" are still "welcome" to come to the States as migrant workers and pick crops for substandard wages and substandard treatment, while being subject to pesticide poisoning and other hazards—and 187 won't change this at all.

As for Governor Wilson, he's got a maxi-sized can of worms to deal with now.

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An injured player sets new goals

By **Aaron Wilson**
Staff Writer, **The East Carolinean***

Injuries are a part of football. It is a violent game where bodies collide with forces as strong as in any car accident. Helmets and shoulder pads are used as weapons. Players grit their teeth and play so intensely that sometimes people get seriously injured.

NFL players like Mike Utley, Darryl Stingley, and Dennis Byrd are prime examples of catastrophic injuries that have occurred. They are the victims of freak accidents that have left them either partially disabled or wheelchair-bound for the rest of their lives. In Stingley's case, a vicious hit by Los Angeles Raiders safety Jack Tatum left him paralyzed for life.

No one wants to feel like football is dangerous or unsafe. What about safety precautions and medical technology? Newer and better equipment? Sometimes, this isn't enough, and a major injury does occur.

[In mid-October,] versus a South Carolina safety, East Carolina University's **Bruce Pearson**, a walk-on who is

legally deaf in one ear, was lined up in kickoff coverage. Pearson had worked his way off the scout team to become special-teams captain, and had become one of the best players in that area of the Pirates' game. Pearson is one of the wedge-busters, those players who run down and, without any regard for their personal safety, throw themselves at enemy blockers in an effort to open up holes for the return man.

Special-teams play is not for the faint of heart.

"I don't remember the play because I had a concussion," Pearson said. "I watched the film a few days later and I saw two players trying to block me. They grabbed my arm—it was holding. I saw the ball carrier and I moved in to make the tackle. When I got down low to hit him, his left knee hit the right side of my head and drove through it, knocking me out for a few seconds. My neck really hurt but I thought it was just a stinger or something."

It turned out to be a whole lot more than a stinger. Pearson had fractured his fifth vertebra in three different places. An inch more to the left or right, and spinal-cord damage and paralysis would have occurred, his doctors told him.

Pearson was diagnosed a few days later after x-rays. He was hospitalized in the intensive-care unit and watched 24 hours a day for 4 days.

"I was in traction, and then they fitted me for a HALO, which is a device designed to keep my head and neck from moving and prevent any more damage," he said. "I have four pins drilled into my skull connected to four rods that go to my chest. The bones will heal back together. I have some pain, but the medication is helping. I was lucky—in a split second I could have been paralyzed."

He was able to walk around, and had full movement from the neck down just a few days after the injury. However, he had little recollection of what happened because he had suffered the concussion. "I do remember sitting on the bench and trying to figure out where I was. I looked at the scoreboard and was like, 'When did those points happen?' I wanted to find my helmet and go back in the game. They hid my helmet from me and locked it in the equipment chest."

Being in a HALO isn't very comfortable at all. Pearson has to wear it for 2-3 months and cannot shower. He has to take sponge baths because he cannot get the vest over his chest and shoulders wet. He has a Pirate insignia on one of the strips of metal that goes around his head. "This is my helmet for now," he said. "It feels like I am wearing a helmet and shoulder pads 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It isn't too great, but I'm dealing with it."

Keeping a positive attitude has been the key for getting back to a normal life, at least as normal as can be expected. "Before games, I get discouraged because I want to play. It is a tough situation because I love football. I just have to fight off the bad feelings and be thankful for what I have: family and friends that love me. If I had to get hurt at least it was in a game. I always have set goals for myself, and now I am making new ones and working to accomplish those goals."

Being hearing-impaired would seem like a major obstacle for anyone trying to make it in NCAA Div. I-A football. It would seem impossible to get the signals and understand what is going on.

"I had spinal meningitis when I was 7 years old," Pearson said. "This caused me to lose almost total hearing in my left ear. I wear a hearing aid and it helps me to understand people. The coaches signal in the calls and I learned all of the signals, so I know what my responsibility is. Also, I read lips to get the call in the huddle."

Pearson stands 6-1, [weighs] 200 [pounds], and runs a very average 4.86 in the 40-yard dash. His hard work is what makes him stand out on the field. "Somebody has to have a special-teams role. My job is to cover kicks and make big plays. Being a walk-on, it is hard for me to expect to see any action on defense. I feel like I proved I could play as well as any other player. I don't let not being a great athlete or having full hearing stop me.

"I feel like this is unfair. I put all my time and effort in training to see playing time. My goal was to work hard and play in all 11 games. It just doesn't seem right for me to get hurt like this after everything else I have gone through. I'm going to be all right, though; this won't stop me."

Going through tough times lets a person see how many friends he or she really has. You realize how important your family is. [As for Pearson's,] they have spent almost every waking hour with [him] since his injury. "They have been great. I couldn't get around without them. This whole thing has brought us even closer together."

Mail has poured into the ECU football offices filled with get-well cards addressed to Pearson. One letter that he received means a lot to him, and he gave permission to have it reprinted here.

Bruce,

I am heartbroken to learn of your injury but I'm thankful that your prognosis is so good. A lot of people care about you and we are all wishing you a speedy recovery.

Thank you for giving your best to Pirate football and thank you for being a wonderful example to so many of us. You are a winner in football and a winner in life. I am very proud to know you.

God Bless You
John McMillan

"That letter means a lot to me," Pearson said. "He is a real supportive Pirate fan that comes to every ball game. We keep in touch a lot and I know his two kids. They look up to me and that really makes me feel good."

Pearson is a devout Christian who feels that his faith is what lets him overcome obstacles. "I go to church every Sunday, and read the Bible every day. It helps me to keep my sense of mind. I really believe that if you have a strong faith anything can happen.

"I feel I am a role model, both before and after the injury. I want kids to understand that they can do anything they put their heart into. You just have to set goals and be determined

to let nothing stop you."

Playing again seems unlikely due to the risk of re-injuring his neck. Any further damage would probably mean permanent paralysis, so Pearson decided to forego any comeback attempt.

His playing career may be over, but Bruce Pearson isn't forgotten by the ECU program. He and his family have been the special guests of the athletic department at each home game since the injury. "Bruce is a very special young man," said head coach **Steve Logan**. "He will always be a part of this program. He has so much heart and courage. We are praying for him and I know that Bruce will be okay."

It takes a lot of pride and courage to go out there and put one's life on the line every week for the entertainment of fans. Perhaps people should remember Pearson's story the next time someone says that athletes are spoiled brats who get whatever they want. Use this as an example of courage and dedication that most of us will never have.■

*This article (titled "Pearson suffers career-ending injury at USC") originally appeared (in slightly different form) in the "End Zone" section, October 29 issue of **The East Carolinean**, and is reprinted with permission. Thanks to **David I. Wilson** (Aaron Wilson's father) for sending us a copy.

WHAT'S DOING IN LOS ANGELES

➳ **Up goes the scaffolding:** Starting the weekend of November 12, the Watts Towers of Simon Rodia (1765 East 107th Street, Los Angeles) were closed for an estimated 6 weeks while scaffolding was erected.

On the advice of safety experts, the decision was made to suspend the weekend self-guided public tours. However, visitors are still able to view the three internationally-renowned sculptural towers from outside the fence, on which signs telling the story of the Towers are posted. It is estimated that the restoration project, to include repair of damage from last January's Northridge earthquake, will take three years to complete. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has granted the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, administrators of the Towers, $957,000 to finance repair for that earthquake damage.

When the scaffolding has been completely set in place, the Watts Towers will again be open to visitors Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. For further information, call the Cultural Affairs Department at ☎(213) 847-3368 (TTY) or ☎(213) 485-2433 (Voice).

See also: "Watts Towers' window of opportunity," October 1994 "News Briefs," p. 26.

➳ *Annual Open House at Barnsdall Art Park* celebrated the holiday season with its annual Open House featuring a host of free activities on Sunday, December 4. A highlight was the annual Barnsdall Arts Center Holiday Art Sale, where art students displayed and sold their work—jewelry, ceramics, painting and crafts—at booths set up in the park. Zydeco Party Band and Saturday Nite Bath provided entertainment.

Among the scheduled free activities were self-guided tours of Hollyhock House, the historic landmark built for oil heiress Aline Barnsdall. Docents were stationed throughout the house to answer questions and provide information. Frank Lloyd Wright memorabilia is for sale in the bookstore. There was also an opening reception for *Romantic Frank Lloyd Wright*, an exhibition of photographs by Carol Bishop.

The Open House offered six art workshops for families and children, in addition to a literary program for ages 9 to 12 at the Gallery Theatre. Authors Herbert Camburn and Michael Gaughenbaugh read from their recently-published children's book, **Old House New House: A Child's Exploration of American Architectural Styles**. This was part of the Esther McCoy Lecture Series organized by the Society of Architectural Historians, Southern California Chapter.

➳ **Dancers wanted:** Dance companies and soloists are invited to audition for the fifth annual Dance Roots Festival, which celebrates traditional and contemporary dance. Deadline for submissions is January 27, with auditions to be scheduled in February.

The theme for this year's event, set for May 27 and 28 at the Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC), focuses on dance in America, including forms such as concert, musical theater, and social dance. To apply for auditions, companies and soloists must submit a résumé, proposal, and video to Leslie Sisson at the Cultural Affairs Department, Performing Arts Division, 433 South Spring Street, 10th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90013. For further information, call Sisson at ☎(213) 485-1635 or ☎(213) 485-2437.

The Dance Roots Festival is sponsored by the Performing Arts Division of the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. The free festival at LATC presents two separate programs of traditional and contemporary dance performed by companies and soloists. Accommodations for disabilities and information in alternative formats are available upon request by calling ☎(213) 847-3368 (TTY) or ☎(213) 485-8507 (Voice).

➳ **Toy, image & spirit guide:** The 14th Annual Black Doll Exhibit opened with a reception and holiday bazaar on December 18 at the William Grant Still Arts Center, 2520 West View Street, Los Angeles.

With the theme "Doll as Companion, Image, Treasure," the exhibition, which runs through February 28, explores the black doll as toy, as spirit guide, and as collectible. According to curators Cheryle Grace and Pat Taylor, the show presents dolls from around the world on loan from private Southern California collectors and includes contemporary pieces by

local dollmakers. Among the exhibitors are new artists as well as past participants in the annual, free event. Exhibition coordinator is dollmaker Dorothy Taylor.

The Friends of William Grant Still conceived the Black Doll Exhibit in 1980.

Gallery hours during this exhibit are Monday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. Tours may be arranged by appointment only. For more information or to make reservations for tours, call ☎(213) 847-3368 (TTY) or ☎(213) 734-1164 (Voice).

Continuing attractions

➳ *Lookin' for the "other,"* an exhibition by Sandra Rowe. Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 East 107th Street, Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-1795. (Through January 14, 1995.)

➳ *LAX/94 at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery*—a group exhibition of 16 artists that is part of the multisite biennial *LAX: The Los Angeles Exhibition*—opened November 15, at the Municipal Art Gallery and Junior Arts Center Gallery in Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4581. (Through January 15.)

➳ The *Sunday Open Sunday* series of free family-art workshops runs through March, and is planned around the theme *Our L.A. Home: A Growing Work of Art.* Workshops use art to explore living in a city faced by the challenges, changes, and opportunities experienced by the diverse communities of Los Angeles. Sessions are presented at several citywide cites.

➳ "Field Trip to the Towers," a multicultural-arts program that provides visiting groups with interdisciplinary arts experiences. Watts Towers Arts Center. ☎(213) 485-1795.

➳ *ASL Tours of Hollyhock House* are offered on the first Sunday of each month. Call ☎(213) 660-4254 (TTY) for reservations and time. Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles. Nominal admission fee for adults; children free.

➳ *Will & Co. Workshops*, held regularly, include topics such as fencing, text interpretation, and Shakespearean performance. LATC, 514 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles. For membership information: ☎(310) 798-6290. Ask about accessibility.

Previews

January 7

➳ Registration for winter classes starts, 7:30 a.m.- 1 p.m., Barnsdall Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-2116.

➳ *Conversations with the Artists* program, in conjunction with *LAX/94*. 3 p.m., Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4581.

January 8

➳ *Conversation with the Artist* program, in conjunction with the exhibition *Lookin' for the "other,"* installations and paintings by Sandra Rowe, 2-4 p.m. Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 East 107th St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 847-3368 (TTY); ☎(213) 485-1795 or ☎(213) 847-4646 (Voice).

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Poster Art for Your Community," with political artist Robbie Conal, 2-4 p.m, Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4474.

January 10

➳ Winter classes start at McGroarty Arts Center, 7570 McGroarty Terrace, Tujunga. ☎(818) 352-5285. (Through March 4.)

➳ *Indonesian Children's Art Exhibition*, curated by Joseph Fisher, retired faculty member, University of California at Berkeley. Children's Gallery at the Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4474. (Through February 28.)

January 10-14

➳ Walk-in registration for winter classes (8-week session) at the Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. Registration hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (and the first day of each class, if space is still available). Session runs from January 17 to March 23. ☎(213) 485-4474.

January 13

Family Literacy Fair '95, for the whole family, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Barnsdall Art Park. Entertainment includes storytelling, music, clowns and face painting; hands-on art workshops include making books, puppets, and bookmarks. Performers: Crenshaw High School Choir, Blackstreet Puppet USA, storytelling by Linda Griego, Ballet Folklorico, storyteller Nailah Malik, and Sammy Davis Jr. School of Performing Arts. Sponsored by the Head Start Family Service Center and its delegate agencies, United Way, the Literacy Network of Greater Los Angeles, and the Cultural Affairs Department. ☎800-493-2121. Free.

January 14

➳ *Conversations with the Artists* program, in conjunction with *LAX/94*. Participating artists: Todd Gray, Catherine MacLean, Susan Silton, and Kent Twitchell. 3 p.m., Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4581.

January 15

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Folk Stories for Your Home," with motion theatre artist Zoot, 2-4 p.m., Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 East 107th St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

January 17

➳ Winter classes (8-week session) start at the Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4474. (Through March 13.)

➳ Winter classes start at Barnsdall Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-2116. (Through March 27.)

January 21

➳ *HEARTIME*, exhibition of artwork of and about the heart by inmates in the State of California Department of Corrections' Art-in-Corrections program, opening reception: 2-5 p.m., Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 E. 107th Street, Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-1795 or ☎(213) 847-4646. (Through February 25.)

January 22

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Silkscreening Home," with artist Ramon Cisneros, 2-4 p.m., San Fernando Gardens Community Service Center, 10909 Lehigh Avenue, Pacoima. ☎(213) 485-4474.

➳ *Los Angeles Cuban Cultural Festival/Presencia Cubana en Los Angeles*, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., celebrating the cultural heritage, contributions, and accomplishments of the Cuban community of Los Angeles. Music, dance, food, arts and crafts, and children's activities. Call Patronato José Martí at ☎(818) 349-8772. Free.

January 29

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Recycled City," with artist Joe Grant, 2-4 p.m., Ramona Gardens Community Service Center, 2830 Lancaster Avenue, East Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

January 31

➳ *Social Engagements: Observations and Personal Narratives*, a mixed-media exhibition by artists exploring diverse social and political issues. Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. Featuring artists Mariona Barkus, Sandow Birk, Jean Ferro, Grace Gray-Adams, Craig Hawley, Michael Honer, David Huffman, Susan Joseph, Cyndi Kahn, John Marshall, Ed Massey, Cliff McReynolds, Kathryn Miller, Beverly Naidus, Carol Newborg, Rodney Sappington, Duncan Simcoe, and Liz Young. With her installation, Young will perform sporadically° "Lying by Natural Causes," a live procedure during the reception and run of the exhibition. *Reading Table*: social-political art books by artists Barkus, Naidus, Sappington, and others will be available to visitors for reading during the exhibition. ☎(213) 485-4581. (Through April 2.)

sporadically: every so often; irregularly scheduled.

➳ *Solo Exhibition by John Trees*, recent drawings and paintings. Barnsdall Arts Center Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. Opening reception: To be announced. ☎(213) 485-2116. (Through April 2.)

February 4

➳ *In Whack*, an exhibition by painter David Collis and collage artists Karyn Craven and Anne Marie Karlsen who produce abstract work by imposing a systematic order onto their artwork, opening reception and hands-on family-art workshops, 2-5 p.m., Junior Arts Center Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4581.

➳ *Social Engagements: Observations and Personal Narratives*, a mixed-media exhibition by artists exploring diverse social and political issues. Opening reception and hands-on family-art workshops: 2-5 p.m., Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4581. (Through April 2.)

February 5

➳ *Indonesian Children's Art Exhibition*, curated by Joseph Fisher, retired faculty member, University of California at Berkeley. Reception: 3:30-5:30 p.m., Children's Gallery at the Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4474. (Exhibition runs through February 28.)

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Homesite," with artist Lauren M. Kasmer, 2-4 p.m., Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4474.

February 12

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "Assemblage Homes," with artist Simone Gad, 2-4 p.m., Ramona Gardens Community Service Center, 2830 Lancaster Avenue, East Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

February 18

➳ *Conversations with the Artists*, in conjunction with *Social Engagements: Observations and Personal Narratives*, 3 p.m., Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4581. (See January 31 listing.)

February 19

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "L.A. Treasure Map," with artist Liz Harvey, 2-4 p.m., Mar Vista Community Service Center, 4873 Marionwood Drive, Culver City. ☎(213) 485-4474.

February 26

➳ *Sunday Open Sunday* presents "El Cambio Creativo," with artist Luis Ituarte, 2-4 p.m. Workshop taught in English and Spanish. Ramona Gardens Community Service Center, 2830 Lancaster Avenue, East Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

GENERAL INFORMATION

➳ For exhibits and events in Barnsdall Art Park, call ☎(213) 660-4254 (TTY). This TTY is located the Municipal Art Gallery, which serves all the facilities in Barnsdall Art Park: Hollyhock House, Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Arts Center, and Gallery Theatre—same number.

➳ For more information, contact the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department at ☎(213) 847-3368 (TTY) or ☎(213) 485-2433 (Voice), or the phone numbers given for each facility. (Most are Voice, so use the relay service.)

Accommodations for disabilities are available on request for events and programs. Information in alternative formats also is available on request. Call the TTY number above or ☎(213) 485-8507 (Voice).

➳ For a complete calendar of events and previews, and list of Cultural Affairs Department facilities, contact: City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, 433 South Spring Street, 10th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

BITS & PIECES

☞ **25 Years of YLC: The Youth Leadership Camp Silver Anniversary Pictorial History Yearbook** is available. The hardcover has approximately 120 pages of history, including 25 pages of yearly group pictures, candid shots and names of campers, staff, and volunteers. Also included: the YLC motto, creed, and slogan, and comments from participants from all over the world as they recall 25 years of great memories (1969-1993) from YLC's three locations—Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania; Pengilly, Minnesota; and Stayton, Oregon. Publication and delivery are expected by February. Contact **Mike Anderson**, P.O. Box 20037, Riverside, CA 9256-0037.

☞ **A day to remember:** On December 8, about 120 elementary and middle-school students (aged 6 to 15) from The Pennsylvania School for the Deaf "made their dreams come true" by taking a one-day airplane trip to DisneyWorld's Magic Kingdom, courtesy of the Sunshine Foundation. They were accompanied by their teachers and representatives of the Sunshine Foundation, and given a send-off by representatives of local sports teams (Eagles, Sixers, and Phillies) and other celebrities. Each student received Mickey Mouse ears and a yellow Sunshine Foundation T-shirt to wear.

The "Dreamlift to DisneyWorld" departed from Philadelphia International Airport at 8 a.m. and flew directly to Orlando, Florida. Students then took a ferry to the Magic Kingdom, where they spent one very FULL day, enjoying the rides, exhibits, and parades. They were flown back to Philadelphia, arriving around 9 p.m. "For most of our children, a visit to DisneyWorld is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said PSD Headmaster **Joseph E, Fischgrund**. "This year marks our 175th Anniversary since our founding in 1820, and what better way to celebrate than a trip to the Magic Kingdom! We are all extremely grateful to the Sunshine Foundation for their generosity in making the PSD Dreamlift possible."

Background: Since its inception in 1976, the Sunshine Foundation has sponsored over 42 Dreamlifts to provide groups of "special children" a special day in one of their favorite places, DisneyWorld's Magic Kingdom. The Sunshine Foundation has 29 all-volunteer chapters operating throughout the U.S. and has "made dreams come true" for more than 20,000 children to date. ■

CAPTIONWATCH

GOT THE POPCORN READY?

The Learning Channel (TLC) recently took television viewers on a journey into the lives and minds of **Blake McAllister**, a 6-year-old deaf boy, his family, and his surgeon as Blake underwent the controversial cochlear-implant operation. The special features a surgeon's-eye view of the actual procedure and provides insight into the issues that precipitated one family's difficult decision to have Blake undergo the surgery. ***Cochlear Implant—The Operation*** premiered with captions on TLC on December 13.

TLC is also broadcasting the closed-captioned ***Paleoworld***, a 13-part series that recreates the primeval Earth where giant predators ruled the land and flying beasts with 40-foot wingspans shared the skies with flocks of small birds. Caption funding for ***Cochlear Implant—The Operation*** and ***Paleoworld*** is provided by the U.S. Department of Education's Movies, Miniseries and Specials Programming captioning grant and TLC.

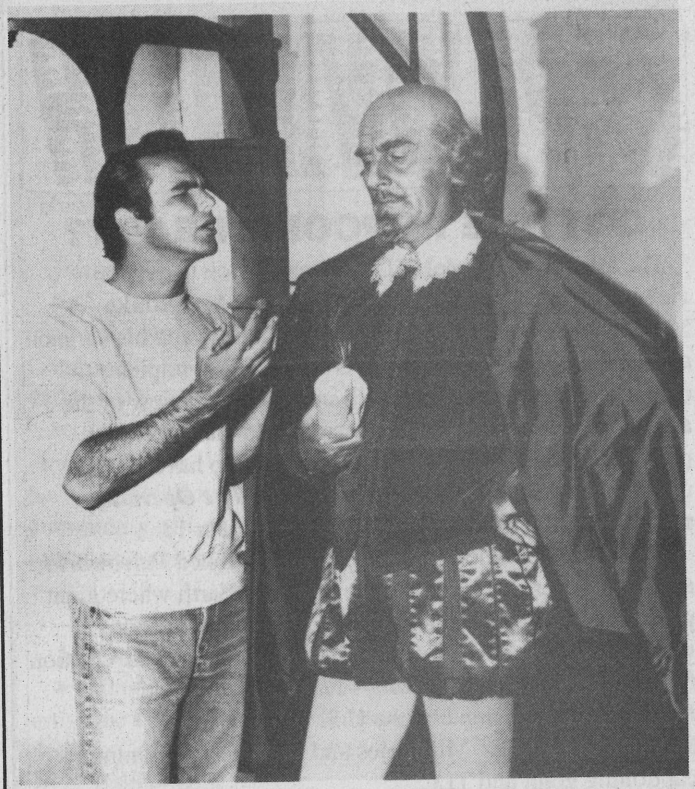
TLC now reaches more than 30 million homes and is a service of Discovery Networks, a unit of Discovery Communications, Inc., which also owns and operates The Discovery Channel. Questions and comments about these and other Learning Channel programs can be directed to Laura Thomson at The Learning Channel, 7700 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

The Caption Center's Movies, Miniseries and Specials project is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and many generous program producers and broadcasters. Federal funds account for 69% of the project with private-sector funds contributing 31% Other recent programs captioned by The Caption Center with Movies, Miniseries and Specials funding include ***Ann Rice: Birth of a Vampire*** (Lifetime), ***A Child's Cry for Help*** (NBC), ***50 Years of Soaps*** (CBS), and Alfred Hitchcock's classics ***Rear Window***, ***Vertigo***, and ***The Man Who Knew Too Much*** (USA Network).

A CULT CLASSIC RETURNS

"You unlock this door with the key of imagination. Beyond it is another dimension. A dimension of sound, a dimension of sight, a dimension of mind. You're moving into a land of both shadow and substance, of things and ideas. You've just crossed into . . . The Twilight Zone."

Such was the introduction each and every week for five seasons beginning in 1959 of Rod Serling's ***The Twilight Zone***. The instantly-popular science-fiction anthology took



Is there method in't? A young Burt Reynolds plays a moody and difficult—and suspiciously Brando-ish—"method" actor alongside John Williams, who appears as a magically reincarnated William Shakespeare in "The Bard." This is one of 18 rarely-seen hour-long episodes of *The Twilight Zone* being telecast on the Sci-Fi Channel. (Photo courtesy of the Sci-Fi Channel)

viewers on a chilling journey to a place filled with wonder, horror, and suspense where ordinary people are caught up in extraordinary events. A cult following immediately grew around the innovative program, and its audience continues to grow right up to the present day. The Caption Center has worked with the Sci-Fi Channel to make ***The Twilight Zone*** accessible to a new audience of fans. Caption funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Education's Syndicated Programming Award.

The primary factors contributing to ***The Twilight Zone's*** continued popularity include the exceptional writing, much of it by Serling himself, and the excellent actors and actresses who appeared in the show over the course of its 5-year run. ***The Twilight Zone*** won three Emmy Awards, including two for Outstanding Writing, Drama. Some of the famous stars who appeared in the series include Robert Redford, Burt Reynolds, Carol Burnett, Charles Bronson, William Shatner, and Robert Duvall—even the legendary silent-film comedian Buster Keaton.

The Sci-Fi Channel, seen in an estimated 16 million homes nationwide, has exclusive rights to 136 half-hour episodes and 18 rarely-seen hour-long episodes spanning all five seasons of the original show. The episodes are being shown in chronological order, beginning with a celebration ***Twilight Zone*** marathon and special on New Year's Day, and will run through 1999.

The Syndicated Programming captioning grant was awarded to The Caption Center for a third 3-year project period in Fall 1993. Federal funds account for 64% of the total award, complemented by private-sector contributions. ***The Twilight Zone*** is the most recent classic series captioned by The Caption Center thanks to the Department of Education's grant. The pool of funds has already made some of television's most popular programming accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing audiences, including ***M*A*S*H***, ***Gunsmoke***, ***The Mary Tyler Moore Show***, ***Taxi***, ***The Rockford Files***, and I ***Love Lucy***.

THE FINAL FRONTIER: UPDATE

We originally ran the petition on the facing page in our November 1994 "CaptionWatch." We've gotten good response from readers in Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, Kansas, Colorado, and California. We're running the petition again. As before, your help is needed to collect signatures asking members of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) to open-caption prints of ALL their future first-run releases, so that a few open-captioned screenings of each release can be arranged for those who want to see them.

Even if you are unable, for whatever reason, to collect signatures, you can still help by recruiting your friends and relatives in other towns and states to collect them. Help is needed in every state and territory of the U.S. and Canada. Hearing people, Deaf people, voters, nonvoters, adults, teenagers, and children may all sign or collect signatures. Even people from other nations should sign, as long as they have a U.S. or Canadian mailing address.

Photocopy as many blank petition forms as you need. Send us your completed petitions, and we will distribute copies to Creative Access and to MPAA members. There is no deadline for mailing in signatures—the best policy is to send them in as you collect them, and keep collecting them as long as you're able.

Your signature on the petition will help us demonstrate widespread support for the ongoing efforts to have open-captioned movies—NOW!

☛ We hope to feature an update on the Creative Access/ Captioned Movies Project petition drive. Thanks to **Carol Finkle** of Creative Access for her encouragement and inspiration.

☛ And thanks to all those who have been distributing the petitions, collecting names, and sending them in.

TO: THE MOTION PICTURE COMPANIES OF AMERICA

We, the undersigned, are of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Community, or are relatives, friends, and neighbors. Those of us who are Deaf/hard-of-hearing—and there are millions of us—can only understand movies that are captioned. We must, therefore, strongly urge you to caption ALL of your first-run releases. Captions will also benefit those learning to read English as a second language, adults in literacy programs, and elderly people. In fact, the literacy rate in the general population could actually skyrocket if English captions were made available to the general moviegoing public. We thank you for your support.

	NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP	Deaf/HH/Hearing
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Please mail collected signatures to:
Captioned Movie Campaign/**DEAF LIFE**, 1095 Meigs Street, Rochester, NY 14620.
Photocopies of this form are acceptable.

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Tri-County Center, Inc.
8945 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46260

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All information must be **typed** or **printed**. Illegible {not clear} submissions or those without spaces between words will not be accepted.
Deadline for submission is 1st of the month for the following month.

We reserve the right to edit or reject any submission.

By Stuart Gopen

CABLE MOVIE CHANNEL SCORECARD

Percentage of captioned programming as indicated in the title index of **The Cable Guide**:

	SEPT	OCT	NOV
HOME BOX OFFICE (HBO)	74%	63%	62%
CINEMAX	35%	38%	32%
THE DISNEY CHANNEL	55%	39%	50%
SHOWTIME	48%	40%	45%
THE MOVIE CHANNEL	31%	28%	32%

Company Spotlight

NEW HORIZONS HOME VIDEO releases "B" movie titles but once in a while they release a movie with nationwide exposure. For example, last year they marketed ***Carnosaur*** on video; it had played in theaters around the country. The owner of this company is Roger Corman, whose name may be familiar to some of you. He has produced many movies over the years and started this video company several years ago. **NEW HORIZONS HOME VIDEO** has **never** released any captioned titles since they have been in business. Their newest title is ***Nightmare***, which is coming to video on January 18th. You may write to:

✉✍ Roger Corman
New Horizons Home Video
2951 Flowers Road South #237
Atlanta, GA 30341

Major captioned home-video releases

NOVEMBER

Abraham
Beverly Hills Cop III
The Birds II—Land's End
Black Beauty
Brainscan
Breaking Point
A Captive in the Land
Carmen Jones
A Christmas Reunion
City Slickers II—The Legend of Curly's Gold
Cops & Robbersons
Dangerous Touch
Deadly Target
Desperately Seeking Susan
Dixie Carter's Yoga for You—Unworkout II
Dream Lover
Even Cowgirls Get the Blues
The Favor
Flinch
The Flintstones
Getting Even with Dad
Goldy III—The Magic of the Golden Bear
Guardian Angel
The Hard Truth
Hong Kong '97
Inner Sanctum 2
Little Big League
Little Buddha
Love is a Gun
Marilyn—The Last Word
Martin Lawrence You So Crazy
Maxie
The Paperboy
✖✖✖MSM indent titles of same series✖✖✖
Predators of the Wild: African Survival; —Bats; —Crocodiles & Alligators; —Giant Tarantula; —Snake; —Wolf
Prehysteria 2
Private Lessons—Another Story
✖✖✖MSM indent titles of same series✖✖✖
The Roy Rogers Show: Vol. 7—Junior Outlaw/End of the Trail ; —Vol. 8—His Weight in Wildcats/Portrait; —Vol. 9—Deadlock at Dark Canyon/Access
The Secret Garden
Sioux City
Speed
The Spider and the Fly
Summer Lovers
Texas
Trancers 5—Sudden Deth
Tryst
When a Man Loves a Woman
White Christmas—Collector's Edition
White Mile
Whore 2
Winnie the Pooh and Christmas Too
With Honors
The Woman in Red
Wyatt Earp
The Yearling
Young Pioneers' Christmas

LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS

In a previous column [October 1994], I stated that ***Return of the Living Dead*** was not closed-captioned. Recently, I was informed by a viewer that the **unrated** version **IS** captioned. I had checked the R-rated version, which was labeled as being captioned but in reality was **NOT** captioned. Since Vidmark Entertainment did not return any of my calls, I assumed that all copies were not captioned, but now have been informed otherwise. These kinds of problems are representative of what deaf consumers have to endure!

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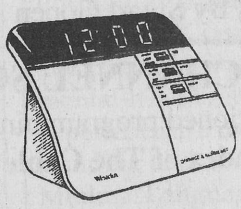

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